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No.342 April 12, 2009

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ELDERLY FACING LONELINESS AND DISCRIMINATION

Care system for pensioners 'on the brink of collapse'

OLDER people are suffering loneliness, isolation and age discrimination in hospitals, a leading charity has warned.

A new national report found pensioners feel the quality of their lives is getting worse as they struggle with rising levels of poverty.

In Kent, thousands of people over 65 are living on low incomes and Kent County Council said it was working to address the issues highlighted in the study, which was produced by Age Concern and Help the Aged.

Nationally, about one million older people said they were often or always lonely, the report, One Voice: Shaping Our Ageing Society, found.

Paula Owen, the chief officer at Faversham Age Concern, said: "Loneliness is a very big issue. We provide a care navigator service in the Swale area that probably picks up people we would not normally be in contact with.

"It is people who would not come to a day centre, but who have had life-changing experiences, such as a recent bereavement or reaching the end of a long-term caring situation.

"We find these people are looking for companionship, somebody to go to the cinema with or the pub for a drink. The social contacts we often take for granted during our life can sometimes

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

become very difficult for older people and they can become detached."

KCC said it invested in befriending projects to address the loneliness and isolation older people can suffer.

Age Concern and Help the Aged, which merged this week to form one super charity to support the elderly, has urged the Government and all political parties to "transform the ageing process".

Michelle Mitchell, the charity's director, has warned that "the care and support system for older people is on the brink of collapse" and that attitudes to older people are "stuck in the past".

The report found that 60 per cent of elderly people suffer widespread discrimination.

Mrs Owen said: "There are still issues with hospitals setting about the way some [older] people are dealt with.

"Although a lot of work has been done, there is a long way to go.

"It is about changing attitudes towards older people in hospitals. We need to be campaigning for them to receive equal treatment to someone of a younger age and I am not convinced that

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



Kent's my favourite location, location, location, says Phil

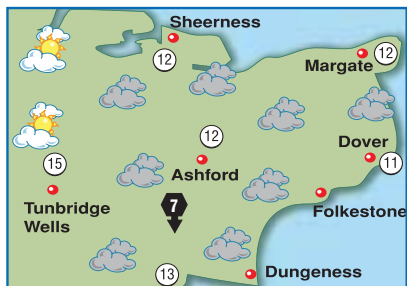
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Kent today



TODAY: It will be predominantly dry with some sunny spells but there will be sufficient cloud for an isolated shower or two. Very mild with just a light north to north-easterly breeze. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).
TONIGHT: Generally cloudy but remaining dry. Light north-easterly winds. Min temp 4-7C (39-45F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	13	55	London	fair	13	55
Belfast	sun	16	61	Liverpool	fair	17	63
Birmingham	cloudy	12	54	Manchester	sun	14	57
B'mouth	sun	15	59	Newcastle	sun	14	57
Bristol	sun	12	54	Norwich	fair	14	57
Cardiff	sun	13	55	Oxford	sun	15	59
Cork	rain	11	52	Southsea	sun	16	61
Edinburgh	fair	13	55	S'hampton	fair	13	55
Glasgow	fair	12	54	Southport	fair	17	63
Isle of Man	fair	11	52	Swansea	fair	13	55
Leeds	sun	14	57	Torquay	sun	13	55







Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.06am	Sunset	7.48pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	11.54pm	Moonset	6.39am	7.48pm to 6.03am

High Tides

	today	tomorrow
	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	01.18 6.7 13.37 6.5	01.52 6.5 14.10 6.3
Margate	02.25 4.7 14.43 4.5	03.00 4.6 15.12 4.4
St Mary's	07.06 5.5 19.22 5.5	07.39 5.3 19.55 5.2

Week ahead

 monday Cloudy, Dry. max 15C min 6C	 thursday Rather cloudy. max 15C min 7C
 tuesday Isolated showers. max 14C min 7C	 friday Dry, Bright. max 14C min 6C
 wednesday Heavy rain. max 14C min 7C	 saturday Cloudy, Dry. max 15C min 6C

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Printed by Archant Print. Early edition free, late edition 60p.

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Planning gains on hold to help developers build

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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SCHOOLS, doctors' surgeries and other facilities built for new communities face funding delays due to changes in council policy.

Section 106 agreements are clauses built into major contracts that seek to ensure house-builders agree to fund the necessary infrastructure in return for planning permission.

Examples include the £110 million deal between Land Securities and Gravesham council that will see four schools, a learning centre and better public transport and roads at the new 6,000-home Ebbsfleet Valley development.

However, local authorities throughout the country are now preparing policies to let developers pay reduced contributions or defer payments until the economic climate improves.

Ashford and Medway councils are two that have already agreed to alter their Section 106 systems, with members of Medway's development control committee approving the change at a meeting late last year.

A spokesman said: "Medway Council is sympathetic to the problems developers are facing during these difficult economic times so we have brought in temporary measures to ease the situation."

"For existing developments, developers who can prove financial difficulties can enter into flexible payment plans to increase the length of time in which to meet their obligations."

"This flexibility includes waiving interest on late contributions."

"Other arrangements are in place for developers who claim they cannot start development due to the cost of obligations with Section 106 agreements."

The spokesman added the council had already agreed revised payment plans with one major developer on two large sites with a total value of £550,000.

Ashford council also says its new system will only apply in exceptional cases, although the policy has already been adopted at two key sites seen as vital to the town's future – the Old Newtown Railway Works and the conversion of the Charter House office block to flats in the town centre.

It is thought the council has also agreed an initial payment of £933,000 for another development of 350 homes at Hunter Avenue, with a total of £2.8m deferred off-site contributions.

Speaking to Kent on Sunday's sister paper Yourashford, Ashford Tory MP Damien Green said he could see why the Section 106 agreements needed to be altered.

He said: "At the moment the council is having to cope with the recession like everyone else, and this is one way to try to ensure that development does not come to a complete stop."

"The real long-term issue is whether Section 106 agreements will survive or will have to be replaced by some other means of maintaining developers' contributions to essential infrastructure."

Elderly struggling with recession told to get in touch with local Age Concern

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
always happens at the moment."

The pensioner population in the county is expected to increase by nearly 30 per cent to 310,200 by 2017, which will put more pressure on services.

Cllr Graham Gibbens, KCC cabinet member for adult social services, said: "We have made investments in preventative services in a number of areas, not

least through our partnership with voluntary sector organisations such as Age Concern.

"There are many good voluntary organisations across Kent and they work hard to ensure elderly people get the benefits they are entitled to."

Mrs Owen urged any older people struggling financially due to the recession affecting their savings to get in touch

with their local Age Concern.

Cllr Gibbens has welcomed Kent's policy framework for later life, which will impact on all KCC's services and bring together transport, housing and community activities and the authority believes it will improve the quality of life for older people in the county. It is expected to be agreed by the full county council this autumn.

Club's former glory brought back to life at new exhibition

THE roller-coaster history of Ashford Town Football Club has kicked off in a new exhibition taking place at the town's museum.

As the club struggles against its latest problems of a huge unpaid tax bill and a fall-out between its two owners, Ashford Museum casts an eye back over the club's past.

Among the exhibits are old team photographs, programmes and extracts of some of its FA Cup exploits in the 1990s, taken from the former fanzine, After Arter.

Curator of the museum, Alan Terry, said: "Young people today may think that Ashford Town is just a small, non-league club that has never achieved very much; but we have had some glory days in the past."

Football in Ashford dates back to the 1870s when it appears the game was being played under what are described as 'rugby rules'.

The first proper football club that was organised went under the name of the South East Rangers in 1884. It seems then, as now, the fortunes of the club seemed to rise and fall with the money available to sustain the team.

Element

Ashford Town as we know it today finally formed in 1930, and played at Essella Park in Willesborough until 1987, when it moved to its current ground at the Homelands in Kingsnorth.

Also featured in an exhibition at the museum is another element of local history that not many people may know about near Sellindge.

Diners at the Airport Cafe on the A20 may wonder how it got its name, but the new exhibition goes a long way to explaining it.

Between 1968-74 the industrial site opposite the diner was Ashford's airport. At its height 300,000 passengers used the terminal mainly flying to destinations in Europe.

However, aviation in the area actually dates back as far as 1916, and it was the taking-off point for early flying pioneers such as Amy Johnson.

Ashford Museum is next to the tourist information centre in The Churchyard, next to St Mary's in the town centre. It is open Mondays to Saturdays from 10am-1pm between April and October.

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Spencer declares love for Garden of England

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

TELEVISION property expert Phil Spencer has launched the Kent Design Awards 2009-10.

The co-star of Channel 4's *Relocation*, who was born just outside Canterbury, spoke of his love for Kentish buildings at the launch on Thursday.

He joined Kent County Council leader Paul Carter to urge architects, building companies and developers to enter the prestigious awards.

Asked why they were so important, Mr Spencer said: "They celebrate what is happening in Kent, really there is a lot of such distinctive development in Kent, but a lot goes unrecognised. So, the awards really are to encourage design and encourage sustainability and quality."

There are six categories in the awards, which are held biannually, including residential, commercial, and town/village renaissance, to celebrate effective regeneration work in the county.

A new category has been added this year called Project of the Year in honour of Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, the council's former leader, who died in August last year after a battle with cancer.

The deadline for applications is July 17 when the yet-to-be-announced judges will get together to deliberate before the March 2010 awards ceremony.

Cllr Carter said he expected to receive up to 400 entries.

Mr Spencer said he hoped green technologies would feature in the innovative winning designs.

"It is incredibly important and as the years go by it's something we are all more aware of and paying more attention to," he said.

"It was a big buzzword before the recession came along and the market turned. There was a lot of talk about it and a great amount being achieved by developers and designers."

"People were starting to be prepared to pay for that because that has been the problem – would people be prepared to pay more money for an environmentally sensitive building?"



BUILDING: Phil Spencer hopes to encourage good design like Pines Calyx, St Margarets

"That was starting to happen, but then the markets turned and it is no longer at the front of people's minds. But the issue has not gone away, the whole environmental issue is only getting more serious."

"I would hope, well we would all hope as it is all our future, that it will be of great importance in these awards and in years to come."

Speaking to a number of industry figures at the launch event, Mr Spencer could not avoid mentioning the current crisis in the property market.

He said: "For what it's worth at my best guess is that prices should stabilise later this year."

Construction

The popular presenter praised the impressive range and quality of buildings in Kent and joked: "I'm lucky enough in my working life to travel the country and explore new areas, but I can say without reservation that my favourite location, location, location is Kent."

Spencer, 40, grew up in Littlebourne and found fame presenting the Channel 4 show *Location, Location, Location* with Kirstie Allsopp.

Cllr Carter said despite the turbulent economic times and the "dire" state of the construction, the awards were important.

He said: "Under the Government housing directives, Kent and Medway have to build up to 7,000 homes every year until 2026."

"It is vital these homes are built to really high standards of design and sustainability. Good design is essential for quality of life and for helping to build cohesive communities."

"We believe these awards support Kent businesses at this difficult time."

"They are a great opportunity for local companies to show off what they do well, and will create local jobs in the public and private sectors."

Entry forms are available online at www.kent.gov.uk/kent_design. For more details call 01622 696 875 or email kbdawards@kent.gov.uk.

Phone mast threat

FRUSTRATED residents are considering a legal challenge against Vodafone in a bid to stop the communications giant putting up a phone mast.

The threat was made by campaigner Mike Evans, one of the parents outraged the 3G mast could be put up just 100ft away from St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Gillingham.

Council chiefs twice rejected Vodafone's planning application, but were overruled by the Planning Inspectorate.

A Vodafone spokesman said: "The mast will give our customers the opportunity to use mobile broadband with speeds similar to other broadband providers."

Glo get 'em police

CROOKS are being caught because they glow in the dark after touching a new invisible dye.

Everyday burglars or thieves are being arrested at Maidstone police station after passing through new ultra violet detection equipment.

Smartwater can be detected using ultra violet light and has a 100 per cent success rate.

Each batch is unique so criminals can be linked to the scenes of their crimes. A police spokesman said: "From now on every offender booked into the custody suite will be screened."

To see this clip search 'Kent Life' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



See how a former top Kent attraction has spent £500,000 in transforming itself into an all-new family day out

£500,000 upgrade used to keep forces' eye in the sky

A CRIME-fighting helicopter will receive a £500,000 upgrade thanks to an agreement between police in Essex and Kent.

Kent Police has been sharing its neighbour force's air support team for a year, during which time it has attended 2,691 incidents on either side of the Thames.

Under the agreement, Essex is allowed to use the helicopter for about 1,000 hours a year while the remaining 300 permitted is spent in this county.

That works out at about £16 for every hour the team spends in the skies above Kent.

Assistant Chief Constable Allyn Thomas told Kent on Sunday the cost would have been far higher had the force purchased its own helicopter.

He said: "There was a period some years ago when some forces started buying helicopters, but for whatever reason Kent Police wasn't one of them."

"They're now a lot more expensive and they also have a limited shelf-life, so being in part-

nerships makes a lot of sense financially.

"A single helicopter costs millions of pounds and you would also have to employ all the crew. It's much better value for money to do what we do. Nationally only large forces like the Met and Manchester own helicopters outright. Most share them."

Kent and Essex police launched their collaboration in August, 2007, with the two officially agreeing to work together to improve service for their respective communities.

Sharing the helicopter has led to more than 200 arrests in both counties, with more than £800,000 of property seized. The work of the air support team has also led to 32 missing people being found as well as 60 missing vehicles.

ACC Thomas added: "Sharing the helicopter is of benefit to both sides, as it allows us to have access and Essex receive a contribution to costs that they can then spend on improvements."

The £500,000 paid by Kent Police will also be used to fund more hours in the air for the helicopter and on training more pilots.

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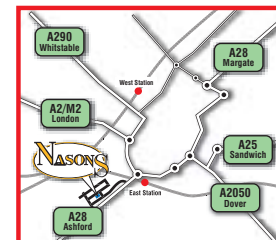
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Force's new faces for Kent Police chief's senior team

THREE new assistant chief constables have been appointed to Kent Police, *writes Jenna Pudelek.*

Gary Beautridge, who has been a member of the county's force for 30 years, Alan Pughsley from the Metropolitan Police Service and Essex Police's Andy Adams, are the successful candidates.

Ann Barnes, chairwoman of the Kent Police Authority, which is responsible for hiring and firing chief and assistant chief constables, announced the new promotions this week.

She said: "The authority, together with the chief constable, has been considering extending the senior management team for quite some time.

"We have to remember Kent Police is a large force and acts as the gateway to Europe. There are many exciting times ahead, especially through our joint working with Essex Police."

She said money to pay for the new posts had been found internally.

Mr Beautridge, 48, has spent most of his operational experience as a detective working Medway and Maidstone.

He has also spent four years on the National Crime Squad and been a senior investigating officer on a number of high-profile murder cases, and the Kent Air Ambulance Disaster.

The former area commander of north Kent has been a temporary assistant chief constable since June last.



CHIEF: Mike Fuller

Enthusiasm

Mr Pughsley, 43, has been in the Met since 1984, and brings to Kent expertise in murder investigations, armed robbery, firearms and drug related crimes. He leaves his position as borough commander in Lewisham, south London to come to Kent.

Mr Adams, 43, began his police career with Essex Police in 1985, and has held a number of senior management positions since, including head of criminal justice, divisional commander and head of corporate development.

Chief Constable Michael Fuller added: "I'm extremely pleased with the authority's decision. "I believe it was the right choice for Kent Police and the residents of the county.

"I have worked with Gary for quite some time and he has the tremendous quality of generating enthusiasm, respect and loyalty from staff that work for him.

"Both Alan and Andy will bring a variety of skills and expertise with them and I look forward to welcoming them to my senior officer team.

"I'm confident that together they will make a significant contribution to keeping Kent and Medway a safe place to live and work."

To see this clip search 'vision' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Sittingbourne's Mona Lewis, one of the contestants in this year's The Apprentice, talks at 2020 Vision.

By CHRIS MURPHY

WORRIED rail chiefs have recruited boxing star Amir Khan to back a safety campaign to keep youngsters off the lines during the Easter holidays.

They have already held a meeting with children in Sittingbourne to underline the lethal dangers of going near railway tracks.

Staggeringly, despite previous warnings and many deaths and injuries, there were more than 600 recorded incidents of railway crime involving young people in Kent last year.

Network Rail has launched its annual No Messin' campaign in the hope it will help reduce railway crime and finally get the message through to children that there are better places to play.

It has carried out a series of talks for young people in Sittingbourne. In recent years, the town has experienced some of the highest number trespass and vandalism incidents on the railway in the county.

Last year there were 47 reported incidents of trespass and vandalism in the Sittingbourne area – almost one a week.

The interactive briefings show the potentially lethal dangers of electricity, trespass, tagging or graffiti and stone throwing.

The talks took place at the Swallows Leisure Centre and Sittingbourne College Sports Centre and were organised in partnership with the Sports Development Team at Swale Borough Council.

Even simple things like taking short cuts, playing alongside the tracks, throwing objects at trains, placing obstructions on the line, and spraying graffiti on railway bridges, fencing and buildings, are not only dangerous, but are all crimes, which could result in court appearances and a criminal record.

Some of the worst incidents in the county include bicycles being put on the line near Ashford, Dumpton Park, and three times at Queensborough.

A metal window was left on the line at Beltring, a TV at Dumpton Park, a child's buggy near Kemsley, a plastic chair near Sittingbourne, a scooter at Margate, and a shopping trolley close to Rochester.

But there has been some success – Gillingham has seen a 35 per cent reduction in cases.

Tackle

Backing the campaign, Olympic silver medallist Amir Khan said: "No Messin' is great because, instead of just lecturing kids, it gives them the chance to get involved with something new for free.

"Young people need to know that messing about on the tracks is not what earns them respect. The young kids that I see in my community gym are learning a real skill in boxing, making friends and keeping out of trouble.

"I want young people to take a chance and try something new at a No Messin' Live! event, rather than on the railway, where all they'll be doing is chancing their lives."

And Andrew Munden, Network Rail's Kent route director added: "We are working hard to tackle the most dangerous crimes where young people think it is fun to play 'chicken' with a 200-tonne train going at 100mph or place objects on the line, which could have catastrophic consequences."

The company's safety team, together with the police, sports clubs, schools and community groups across Kent, will raise awareness of the dangers. They also run 'community payback' schemes, where those convicted of trespass crimes and spraying graffiti, are made to clean up their mess under supervision.



News and sport updated daily online

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Boxing clever to keep children on the right tracks



LIVE WIRE: Boxer Amir Khan (left) is backing the scheme to stop kids from being killed or injured on railway lines



Are you one in 100?

JUST four more people are needed to take part in the mayor's photo to mark the centenary of Royal Tunbridge Wells – but they must be aged 89, 97, 98 or 99 years-old.

The response to a call from Mayor Mike Rusbridge to photograph 100 people aged 0-100 has been fantastic, he said.

The photo will take place in the Assembly Hall Theatre from 2.30pm on Thursday, April 16, and to take part people need to log on to www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/100yearphoto or call Marilyn Barry on 01892 526121.

Gate theft warnings

POLICE have warned owners of metal gates, especially in rural locations, to ensure their property is security marked.

The move follows thefts of gates in west Kent, including two from a water pumping station at Matfield between April 1-2.

PC Martin Pemble, of Tunbridge Wells rural neighbourhood policing team, said: "If possible make it difficult for a would-be thief by fitting gates with a good quality close-shackle padlock and ensuring they are fitted with anti-lift hinges or capping hinges."

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Life-threatening situation called for drastic action to save the life of Tiny the lion

Big claws for concern



MANE ATTRACTION: It took eight people to lift Tiny onto the operating table for the procedure to remove a horse hair ball which had perforated the lion's gut and threatened to kill him

A MASSIVE lion was hours from being killed by a giant horsehair 'fur ball' perforating his gut.

The aptly named Tiny normally lives happily with his two brothers at the Wildlife Heritage Foundation in Smarden, near Ashford.

Keeper Mark Edgerley said: "We noticed he was proper poorly, but even we were shocked at how fast it turned into a major emergency. 'We called in the vets who responded very quickly and his life was saved by an emergency operation in Maidstone."

"This was about six weeks ago, but we were so worried that even after the surgery Tiny wouldn't make it, so we have been keeping quiet about it."

"Of course, now we are delighted he has made a full recovery and is now back with us

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

creating all the usual mischief, including fighting with his brothers.

"He is a big lion weighing 200kg and is still only six years old."

In a classic jungle scenario, Tiny was anaesthetised using a dart and blowpipe by a vet in his den before the operation, which involved six vets and eight handlers.

Inflamed

Mr Edgerley said: "We feed Tiny horse meat which does come with a certain amount of hair still attached. We believe this hair has built up over time and caused the problem."

"We believe it may be connected with some

surgery he had as a cub which meant we had a remove a valve from his stomach.

"That may have had a knock-on effect leading to this fur ball. Now we ensure he is on a hair-free diet so we won't have to go through all this again."

And it wasn't just the horse hair in his stomach. Just like many domestic cats, Tiny ended up with some of his own mane and tail fur in there, too.

A three-foot length of inflamed gut also had to be removed.

Maralyn Hawkins, practice manager of Pets Ltd where the surgery took place, said: "Tiny was brought to us because we have a operating theatre set up for large animals, though it's mainly used for horses, not lions."

She added: "Eight people had to lift him onto the operating table, he was that big and

heavy. But seeing a lion right in front of your eyes, an animal of that size and magnitude so close up, is amazing.

"Obviously it is not nice that a lion had to be operated on, but seeing him brought a smile to everyone's face. You couldn't resist it. "It was a real 'wow' moment."

Assessed

She said: "It was a life-threatening situation for Tiny. He was being sick for a few days before he was assessed and vets decided he needed emergency surgery. If he didn't have it done, he would be dead now."

"Tiny came through the operation well and is doing really well."

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County Hall's helping hand during crunch

A RECESSION-busting campaign has been launched to support people through the credit crisis and economic downturn.

Kent County Council has joined forces with other public sector and voluntary agency partners for Backing Kent People – Real Help in Tough Times.

The campaign, which was unveiled on Thursday, will work to promoting the financial advice and support already on offer to Kent residents, as well as several new initiatives.

Cllr Kevin Lynes, KCC's cabinet member for regeneration, said: "As a strategic authority it is our responsibility and duty to make sure we react appropriately when there is a downturn and that when people have problems we are there.

"KCC is seeing a number of people turning to us and asking for help about the systems and mechanisms for getting benefits.

"Before the launch we met with Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABs), district councils, voluntary groups and a whole range of different organisations both outside and within KCC.

"We are creating a team which is going to give excellent joined-up support for people in these difficult times

By JENNA PUDELEK

– all accessible from one website."

Among the new initiatives on offer is the launch of mobile Gateways services, which will see experts from a range of agencies offer to provide job, debt and benefits advice at advertised surgeries in hard-to-reach places throughout the county.

The services are already at five high street Gateways centres in Thanet, Ashford, Tenterden, Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone, with new centres planned for Tonbridge and Dover.

KCC said it was set to launch the Kent Credit Union in October, which will offer a range of affordable loans and savings products to people who live or work in Kent.

Suffering

The 'people's bank' has been given £250,000 from the council's budget this year to progress the scheme.

KCC Trading Standards is also working with Kent Police and the Government's Illegal Monday Lending Team to crack down on loan sharks by encouraging victims to come forward so offenders can be prosecuted.

The authority has also provided additional funding of £250,000 this year to CABs so it can handle the increase in demand for employment,

welfare benefits and debt advice brought on by the recession.

Bonny Malhotra, director of Kent and Medway CABs, said: "We welcome KCC's initiative to work in partnership with the bureaux to help us alleviate suffering caused by the recession.

"We have already seen a 27 per cent increase in demand for debt and benefits advice. This funding will enable us to increase our capacity to recruit and train volunteers, and see more clients, at a time when demand for our service is steadily rising."

School leavers trying to get a job in Kent have a section aimed at them on the Backing Kent People website that offers help with issues over money, training and education and career choices.

The Kent Benefits Partnership works to ensure people get all the state welfare they are entitled to. An estimated £141 million in unclaimed benefits is left annually by Kent residents.

KCC is also working with the Energy Saving Trust, which provides advice on how households can save of energy bills and help the environment by making their homes more energy efficient.

For more information about new and existing initiatives go to the Backing Kent People website at www.kent.gov.uk/people or call 08458 247 247.

Channel 4 want you on menu

PRODUCERS of the Channel 4 programme Come Dine With Me have announced plans to film part of their next series in Kent.

The show, which involves four amateur chefs hosting dinner parties for each other, is looking for people in Swale to take part.

Executive producer Dave Sayer said he was targeting the borough – which includes the towns of Sittingbourne and Faversham and the Isle of Sheppey – due to its reputation for good food and drink.

He said: "We travel all over the country and like to visit as many places as possible.

"We know there are plenty of places in Swale that serve excellent food and there is obviously the Shepherd Neame brewery in Faversham, so it seemed a good place to come to."

The participants on Come Dine With Me, which visited homes in Kent back in 2006, rate each dinner host's meal at the end of each party and the person with the highest overall score wins £1,000.

Anyone wishing to take part in Come Dine With Me can call 0871 2003939 or email hayley.ashenden@itv.com, leaving their name, location and contact details.



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Players to buy-in for Kent's first poker cup

£500 stake could net you cool £20,000 prize

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

POKER players of all ages and abilities will battle it out to be Kent's first champion in a tournament next month.

The £20,000 competition at Thanet's G Casino costs £500 to enter with a £50 registration fee, although less well-off card sharks will still have the chance to play against the professionals by taking part in special qualifying games.

Venue director Peter Donnelly said he wanted the inaugural Kent Cup, which runs from May 1-4, to be accessible to as many people as possible.

He said: "We recognise there is a huge market out there for us. There are now more women who play the game, as well as lots of people who play online, but maybe haven't ever been to a casino before.

"Maybe in the past they've been a little cautious about coming along, but we want to help allay those fears.

"Every game will have a dealer so if they are worried about having to do it themselves, they needn't be. The competition will



REAL DEAL: G Casino is to host the event

also be heavily supervised throughout.

"The cup is all about a variety of people testing their strengths against one another."

Surprise

G Casino opened at Broadstairs' Westwood Cross shopping complex in March last year, and has been a popular destination for gamblers thanks to its 120-seat poker room and the large collection of slot machines and games on offer.

The venue also houses a restaurant and late-night bar for those not so confident with

their cards, with regular live entertainment also a crowd-pleaser.

Mr Donnelly said previous G Casino tournaments had attracted the likes of footballers-turned-poker players Tony Cascarino and Kenny Sansom, as well as other professional stars.

He added: "One of the joys of this tournament is that you just don't know who you might find yourself up against.

"People who have never played in a casino atmosphere before often surprise themselves at how good they really are.

"Poker isn't like football. It's not going to be like Manchester United coming down to play some Sunday league side. People who play poker a lot online usually acquire themselves quite well against the professionals."

Poker's popularity experienced a spike at the beginning of the decade, largely due to the introduction of online versions of the game as well as the invention of the hole-card camera that turned it into a spectator sport.

Mr Donnelly said: "It's the combination of skill and the ability to read what other people are doing that makes poker such a great game. The fact there are substantial amounts of cash on offer obviously helps too."

Visit www.gcasino.co.uk/thanet for more information on the Kent Cup.

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Government is told get behind 'super-grid' idea

MORE than 100 MPs have signed an ambitious proposal tabled by a Kent MP supporting the creation of a 'super-grid' in desert regions to generate greener energy, **writes Mike Sims.**

Some 128 MPs have now backed Dr Howard Stoate's Early Day Motion, calling on the Government to put its weight behind the development of 'concentrating solar power' (CSP) as a renewable source.

Dartford Labour MP Dr Stoate wrote the motion proposing to construct a 'super-grid' that would supply clean energy for the whole of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Dr Stoate is pleased that political support for the highly innovative 'DESERTEC' proposal is growing, describing CSP as having "colossal potential".

He said: "It is an idea so simple, and with such extraordinary promise as a means of power generation, that it seems astonishing that in Europe we are only just waking up to its potential, more than 20 years after its first use in California."

The Mojave Desert in California is home to the world's biggest CSP plants, although they hit a snag recently when local green groups complained that extra transmission lines would cut through conservation areas.

It is estimated that in just six hours deserts receive more energy from the sun than mankind consumes in a year, and it is this potential that Dr Stoate is keen to unlock.

Dr Gerry Wolff, co-ordinator of DESERTEC-UK, is delighted the number of MPs supporting the concept has exceeded the "magic" 100 figure.

He explained: "It's probably the single most effective means of decarbonising the world's economy. Using CSP, less than one per cent of the world's deserts could generate as much electricity as the world is now using."

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

REPORTS of bright lights and mysterious hovering objects suggest Kent's skies may be host to more than just the birds.

Information released by the Ministry of Defence shows there have been 56 recorded sightings of UFOs over the county in the last decade, with 10 last year alone.

Examples include a report of a huge disc-shaped object "approximately 20 times the size of an aeroplane" spotted flying above Rainham, and a bright orange upside-down light bulb shape hovering near Ashford.

Other recorded sightings last year were not so detailed, with some members of the public notifying the MoD of UFOs without providing dates, times, locations or descriptions.

Gerald Webb, 46, from Meopham, near Gravesend, spotted something strange in the sky above his home late last month.

He did not report his sighting to the MoD and said he would not be surprised if the number of people who had seen UFOs in Kent was higher than official figures suggest.

Mr Webb said: "I live at the top of a valley where there are no street lights and no houses, so on a cloudless night you can see the sky very clearly.

"On this night I was looking out of the patio window and I could see three orangey-red orbs flying in formation.

"There was no noise at all and I thought 'Oh blimey, what am I seeing?' It was like something out of a Steven Spielberg film.

"I went to the pub to see if anybody else had seen it but they thought I had been smoking something. I think that's why more people don't report these types of things, because

County's skies 'full of aliens'



UNEXPLAINED: MoD reports show the number of sightings of UFOs is on the increase

others look at you as if you're a crank.

"I later went on the internet and found that a couple of other people had seen the same as I had, and one of them was from Beckenham."

The number of UFO sightings throughout the UK has risen dramatically over the last few years, from 97 in 2006 to 285 last year.

The figure of 10 in Kent was also the highest in 10 years.

Nick Pope, the MoD's former UFO project head, told the BBC the very fact the ministry was now publishing its files on sightings was generating interest in the phenomena.

He added: "UFOs are a subject almost everyone has an opinion on."

Nineteen files covering sightings between 1986 and 1992 were made available to view for the first time last October.

Mental health services go under the microscope

A CONSULTATION about services for people with complex and severe personality disorders in Kent will be launched this month.

Patients with this type of mental illness in the strategic health authority (SHA) region of South East Coast, which covers Kent, Surrey and Sussex, East of England, South Central and London, a population of around 20 million, currently only have access to only one specialist treatment centre based in the capital.

The other facility is temporarily closed.

Stephanie Newman, director of the South East Coast specialised commissioning group, said: "We are eager to hear people's views about how care should be organised. "We want to know about the whole model of care to make sure we provide choice and support people with complex needs and their families, friends and carers."

Disorder

She is chair of the Tier 4 Personality Disorder Consultation Advisory Group, which launches on April 20.

According to the mental health charity Rethink, someone is described as having a personality disorder if their personal characteristics cause regular or long-term problems in the way they cope with life and interact with other people.

There are 62 primary care trusts involved in the consultation, which runs until Monday, July 27.

People can share their views at www.westkentpct.nhs.uk and can request information by calling 01732 375200 ext 5401.

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Employment boost as jobs move to Saga

UP TO 220 jobs could be created at Saga's Cheriton Parc building after its parent company decided to close offices in Suffolk and relocate to the district.

Under the proposals, workers at Direct Choice in Claydon and Newmarket in Suffolk will have to decide whether they want to make the 125-mile move to Folkestone or accept voluntary redundancy.

The relocation is being driven by the business' rapid expansion, with the expectation that not everyone will want to uproot and leave for Kent.

Recruitment for new staff in Shepway is expected to begin next week.

Acromas Holdings, which owns both Saga and Direct Choice, said it would be "delighted" if the full complement of staff were able to move, but said local workers could be hired if not everyone decides to go.

Acromas spokesman Paul Green said there are a number of reasons for the move, not least because the business had outgrown its current offices.

Mr Green said: "It would bring with it improved management, reduced building costs, better IT infrastructure and lower costs overall. It would also be a far better and more modern working environment."

About 80 per cent of those affected are call centre staff, while the remaining 20 per cent are in management. Under the plans, those from Direct Choice will work alongside Saga employees.

The former Eurotunnel building had a complete refurbishment after Saga bought it in November last year. It can house 400 people but is currently only at half-capacity.



WOOF: These dogs are in need of new homes

Emergency call for rescue dogs

IF YOU are worried about getting lost on upcoming mountain trips, an appeal from the RSPCA may be just your tot of brandy.

But if not, then you may still like the idea of taking on a giant cuddly St Bernard.

The animal charity has plenty to go around – more than 100 in fact, saved from appalling conditions at a Northamptonshire kennel.

They were found around Christmas last year, and are now in need of a new home.

The RSPCA is asking readers if they can find room in their homes and their hearts to give these loveable dogs the care they deserve.

It has taken since December for the previous owner to give up their rights to the dogs,

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

and now the friendly giants are ready to start their new lives.

They are being re-homed in small groups through various RSPCA animal centres.

Priority will be given to potential owners in Kent to limit how far the dogs, which are being cared for in Maidstone, will have to travel to their new homes.

Pointing out the vitally obvious, the RSPCA said St Bernards are large dogs and, as these particular animals have lived in kennels all their lives, they are not used to walking on leads and have not been house trained.

They will need experienced homes where there is a reasonably large amount of space.

Paul Williams, RSPCA animal welfare manager, said: "The dogs have good temperaments but their kennel background means they need owners with the knowledge and time to help them settle into their new homes."

The dogs are aged from two years old and should make loyal and rewarding pets for those able to give them the care they need.

The RSPCA said a donation is required in return for rehoming a dog, which helps cover the cost of neutering, vaccinations, microchipping and veterinary checks.

In all 101 were taken into care, and another four were born, bringing the total to 106.

Anyone who would like to be considered as a new owner can call 0300 1238000.



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'Are you worth it?'

Tory calls for KCC chief to justify salary

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

COUNTY Hall chief executive Peter Gilroy should be forced to justify earning a higher wage than the Prime Minister, says a leading Tory politician.

Shadow chancellor George Osborne says the pay of public sector workers should reflect economic conditions and that his party will end the "age of excess" if it wins the next general election.

One way of doing this, he said, would be for high-earning council bosses to justify their wages to the Treasury.

According to a report by the Taxpayers' Alliance, Mr Gilroy would be one of the first in the firing line due to his mammoth £207,000 salary – about £20,000 more than Gordon Brown earns.

However, KCC deputy leader Cllr Alex King said the chief executive fully deserved the money he was on.

He said: "Peter Gilroy manages the biggest shire authority in the country

– which remains consistently excellent as independently defined by the Audit Commission – with an annual budget of more than £1.8 billion and more than 40,000 staff.

"In recognition of this the council's personnel committee, which consists of elected members from all the political parties, agreed to renew his contract in November, 2006, on a salary of £207,000 per annum with provision for a performance-related element.

Under fire

"The performance payment is not automatic. Chief officers only receive it for excellent achievements, but given the current economic climate they have agreed that no performance-related element will be paid for the financial year 2009-10.

"They also receive no company car, health insurance, mortgage relief or any other fringe benefit."

Despite the praise, Mr Gilroy has come under fire in recent months following the admission by KCC that £50m of taxpayers' money had been frozen in crisis-hit Icelandic banks.

The figure is the most by far of any local authority in the country, and there are no guarantees that any of the cash will be recovered.

Kent Labour leader Cllr Mike

Eddy said he thought the chief executive would have a hard time convincing the Treasury he deserved more money than Gordon Brown.

He said: "I think it would be very interesting to see how senior officers like Peter Gilroy and a variety of others at KCC and throughout the rest of the country would try to justify their wages.

"They talk happily about how much money they could make in the private sector and I would like to see how effective some could be. Perhaps they could try to emulate Sir Frank Goodwin's achievements in the private sector, although I'm not sure they would be able to wreck the banking system quite so well."

Meanwhile, KCC has rejected claims Mr Gilroy received an eight per cent rise in his salary this year.

An email sent by director of personnel Amanda Beer on Thursday assured staff he had received the same percentage increase as everyone else.

She said: "For the record, all senior managers and managing directors, including the chief executive, will receive one per cent on their salaries this year like all other staff. It is completely inaccurate to suggest otherwise.

"This has been true every year since Peter became chief executive."



PAY ROW: George Osborne (left) wants KCC chief executive Peter Gilroy (right) to prove he is worth a higher salary than PM Gordon Brown

Canary thieves nab birds from aviary

POLICE are appealing to bird lovers after seven canaries were stolen from an aviary at a home on the Isle of Sheppey.

The birds included five yellow and two brown canaries, which the owner had only recently acquired.

The theft took place at a

home in Alexandra Road, Sheerness, between 8pm on Monday and 6am Tuesday.

Anyone with any information on the birds' whereabouts is asked to call 01795 419182 and quote reference CY/5740/09, or call Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Funds to plan new city to coast route

KENT County Council has received £30,000 to investigate the creation of a route that could link the Crab and Winkle Way from Canterbury to Whitstable, with the Viking Coastal Trail and the towns of Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs.

The money has come from the latest round of funding in the Government's Sea Change initiative. Last year Dover was given £3.8 million to build a cable car linking the town's Western Docks and the cliff-top castle.

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Converted to win

CANTERBURY building firm Cardy Construction has received an award for its work at a Grade-I listed country hotel in Bedfordshire.

The firm scooped the Urban Design Award 2009 from South Bedfordshire District Council for its work to convert and restore the mansion, stables and boat house at Luton Hoo in Hyde.

Cash machine theft

THIEVES made off with a cash machine in Hamstreet, near Ashford.

A JCB stolen from a farm in Ruckinge was used to pull the machine from McColls in The Street at 2.15am on Thursday.

Police are searching for a stolen Mazda pickup truck, M539 EAV, and a silver 4x4, which are thought to have also been used. Call 01303 289180 or Crimestoppers 0800 555111 if you have any information.

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Protected status may be revoked for 'eyesore' in village

Pond under threat as wall 'destroyed'

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A HISTORIC pond that is the centrepiece of a village could lose its Grade-II listed status after repair works "destroyed" its 19th century stone walls.

Moves to prevent Otford pond, which is thought to have existed since Anglo Saxon times, from deteriorating have pitted the villagers and the parish council against Sevenoaks District Council.

Cllr John Allen, chairman of Otford Parish Council, said residents noticed in 2002 that the stone wall was starting to crumble.

The district council gave listed building consent for repairs to take place, but when the work was not carried out within five years the permission lapsed.

Concerned the structure was becoming dangerous, the parish council went ahead and made repairs and said it was necessary to rebuild the walls to stop water leaking out. But a district council spokesman said: "Much



Pictures: THE OTFORD SOCIETY

HISTORIC: Inset, repairs to the walls at Otford pond have led to a row between councils

of the historic pond wall had been dismantled before Sevenoaks District Council became aware of the works and effected a stop."

The parish council's repair work was then halted in July last year – leaving an eyesore in the centre of the scenic village – while the two councils argue about what to do next.

Zoë McMillan, historic building surveyor for English Heritage (EH), in a letter to the district council said: "As far as I can tell from the material submitted and photographs the conservation officer sent me, the listed structure has been effectively destroyed."

The walls were built in the early 1800s with stone from the Archbishop's Palace, which dominated the village until it was left derelict by 1600, and now only remains can be seen. Residents believe the pond has now become an eyesore in the picturesque village.

Cllr Allen said: "We do not think it has been destroyed, EH has not seen all the evidence and really you can see what a dreadful state it was in."

"It needs to be a safe and sustainable structure. We will do whatever it takes to make it safe and sustainable and suggest to EH that it remains listed."

"The point is, it is more than the facing round the outside... what they consider listed is the more obvious bit of stone."

Villagers successfully got the pond, which is among around 200 with such status in

the country, listed to fight Kent County Council's plans to concrete over it in 1975.

Asked whether he was concerned that if it was de-listed the pond could be at risk from developers, Cllr Allen said: "Listing is supposed to give some protection to it."

"There are roads all the way round it and I cannot think of anything you could possibly do with it. People call it a roundabout but I can't imagine anyone would fill it in and cover it with trees and adverts. Everybody would be thoroughly against that."

Work to repair the pond has now stopped, but Cllr Allen was hopeful a new planning application put in by the parish council would be successful.

He said evidence has been found that repairs had been made, badly, to the pond in the early 20th century, in 1951 and the 60s.

The row with the district council has caused "disquiet" in the village, Cllr Allen said, with residents saying it is "bureaucracy gone mad".

Emily Gee, EH's heritage protection leader for the South East, said: "We never recommend a de-listing lightly. We would need a formal application to consider a case and we would then undertake a very measured assessment of the structure's special interest or otherwise."

"As a Grade-II listed building, it is the local planning authority, in the case of Otford pond, Sevenoaks District Council, that considers listed building consent and enforcement matters."



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Bowler's benefit year quiz opener

CRICKETER Martin Sagers will celebrate his benefit year with a series of money-spinning events throughout 2009.

The bowler, who joined Kent in 1998, is being rewarded for 10 years' service. Sagers' first event will be a quiz night at the St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury, on Friday, April 24.

On Tuesday, May 12, he will be one of the competitors in a celebrity golf day at Canterbury Golf Club, which is also open to the public at a cost of £65 per person, or £260 for a team of four.

Also scheduled for later in the year is a series of dinner and dance events, a Christmas meal, poker night and six-a-side football tournament. Visit www.sagersbenefit2009.co.uk for more information.

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Ronnie muscles-in on changing her career

A TRAINED lawyer has moved into the family business – by becoming a bodybuilder, *writes Chris Murphy.*

And Ronnie Blewitt, 21, is going professional when she performs at a New York competition this year.

Ronnie, born in Canterbury, said she is determined to put a near-fatal car crash behind her too, in her drive to succeed in the big time. She has just been awarded her professional status as a bodybuilder by winning a major British show.

Ronnie, standing 5ft 9ins tall, said: "I will be making my pro-debut in New York this year. I am only the third girl in Britain to achieve the professional status of a pro-figure athlete."

Currently weighing in at 145lbs, the property lawyer plans to knock off 10lbs before taking to the stage.

Ronnie, who is single, won the United Kingdom Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation finals in 2004, earning her the chance to apply for her professional status.

She said: "I was inspired by my mother Melanie Golding who was a competitive physique bodybuilder and is now a world champion powerlifter. That happened when I first saw her compete in 1998, when I was 19.

"My step-father, Paul Golding, is a world-renowned powerlifter and European

champion and he helped fuel my desire to take part in the sport." But it almost came to a crashing end in 2000, when two weeks into a diet to get herself into shape, she was involved in a horrific car smash.

She said: "My spine was fractured in two places and I was advised not to return to the gym in any competitive capacity.

"But I did go back into the gym immediately after rehabilitation, but had not been able to walk for over 10 weeks."

She said: "It was tough work, but I went on to win my first ever show in 2001 and was featured in several bodybuilding magazines as a potential winner of the British finals and a new star in the sport."

Juggling the needs to maintain a top position in a professional sport with a working career that pays the bills is never easy, and Ronnie is still pursuing a career as a lawyer at the same time as competing.

She works at Bell Denning in Ramsgate and specialises in domestic and commercial conveyancing.

She said: "I had to make the decision whether to continue my legal training or go full time into competition.

"At that time I decided to finish studying and in 2008, went along to the Mr Olympia contest to see if I still enjoyed it by taking part in Miss Bikini Model.

"I then attended the UKBFF and decided that it was time to return to the sport."



DOUBLE TAKE: Ronnie in her two roles

Richard Hammonds

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By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

ANTI-hunting campaigner Ann Widdecombe has rubbished claims by a fellow Tory that support for a repeal of the Hunting Act is growing.

The MP for Maidstone and The Weald told KOS Media there was no evidence to support comments made by shadow justice minister Edward Garnier, who is a member of the Countryside Alliance.

However, Miss Widdecombe admitted a repeal of the 2005 Act – which bans the hunting of foxes with dogs – was likely if the Tories win the next general election.

She said: "I challenge Edward Garnier to show me a single poll where people haven't said they want fox hunting banned by a very substantial majority. What is true is that a lot of people feel the present law is not being enforced or is unenforceable. I agree it is not being enforced when it ought to be.

"I have no doubt at all that if we get in with a large majority at the next general election, a repeal of the ban will probably follow.

"That's why lots of hunters continue to defy the law, because they think it's only a matter of time before it is removed."

Countryside Alliance campaigners say they will challenge anti-hunting MPs in 140 marginal seats during the campaign for the general election, which is likely to take place in spring 2010.

Mr Garnier, who chairs the Alliance's repeal committee, told the BBC this week there was a gathering sense of support for what the group was trying to achieve. He added that most people were currently more interested in the economy than hunting.

Kent has a long history of fox-hunting, with the county being home to several clubs including the Ashford Valley Hunt and the East Kent Hunt.

East Kent Hunt member Nick Onslow said people were supporting a repeal of the ban because they were no longer taken in by anti-hunt propaganda: "All the press around the Hunting Act and the huge amount of money groups like the RSPCA spent on propaganda

Tories row as hunt ban gets on agenda for the election

helped broaden public awareness of fox-hunting, but now that has all but died away.

"The public are beginning to find out the truth about hunting. They are coming to our open days and speaking to us at country fairs, and there's support for the repeal of a ban that was unjust and done out of spite."

Mr Onslow added fox-hunting was a way of managing fox numbers, pointing out that in 1815 the fox population in east Kent almost died out because the East Kent Hunt had not been active for a while and farmers had taken to killing every fox they saw.

However, Miss Widdecombe said such a claim was nonsense: "Ninety-four per cent of all fox destruction is not achieved by hunting, so how is that helping to manage fox numbers?"

Tory leader David Cameron has promised MPs a free vote on the issue if his party wins the next election.

However, a total of 158 MPs have signed a motion in the House of Commons supporting the ban and calling on the Government to ensure it is enforced consistently.



OPINION: It is claimed there is a growing sense of public support for fox hunting

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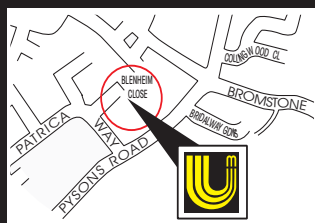
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Leas lift funding row escalates

By **JAMES ALEXANDRE**

james.alexandre@kosmedia.co.uk

THE cost to the taxpayer of continuing to maintain The Leas cliff lift service could be as much as £1 million, according to Shepway council.

The figure comes from a basic assessment for Lottery funding which wasn't submitted because it was believed it would not be successful.

The revelation comes as the 125-year-old

lift faces the threat of closure after the council decided to terminate the lease.

The Victorian water-balance lift will stay open for at least the duration of the Easter holidays, until the next Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, April 15.

Shepway council leader Robert Bliss said there were some "very onerous clauses" in the original agreement negotiated with the Radnor Estate, which owns the lift, leaving the council facing a heavy liability in future.

He said: "These clauses could end up costing us very large sums of money to repair someone else's assets."

"The ending of the lease is not being done simply for cash and we are not making anybody redundant – it's being done for other financial reasons."

Ageing asset

"We want to keep the lift running, but to sign another 10-year lease on the same repairing terms could mean having to replace the tracks."

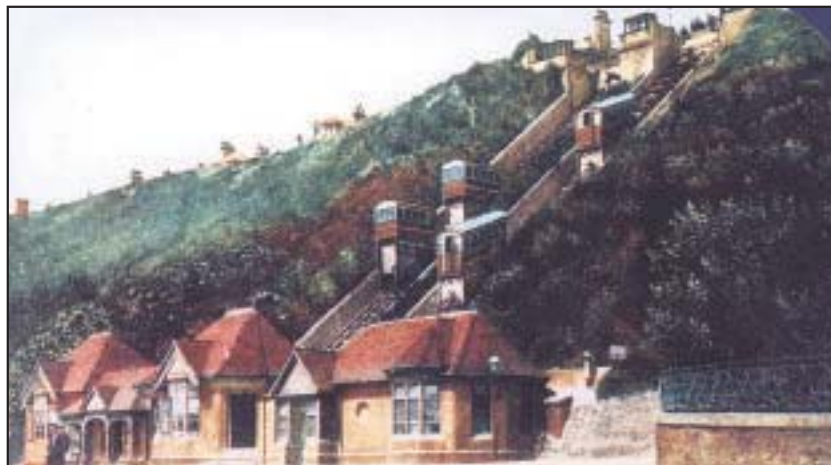
"It's an ageing asset, but we are open to negotiation to keep it running – as long as we are not tied to a lease which has onerous repair obligations."

He said the council was open to the suggestion of managing the attraction in partnership with a voluntary group or charity, if the council was able to avoid liability.

Staff working at the Grade-II listed lift would be redeployed within the council if it closed altogether.

Cllr Bliss also said the corporate scrutiny committee's move to refer the decision back to Cabinet was based on the operation side, rather than on the terms of the lease.

About 150 protestors campaigning



DEMONSTRATION: Shepway District Council's decision to end the lease on Folkestone's Leas Cliff lift has led to a campaign by residents on social network site Facebook

against the possible closure of the lift gathered on The Leas following the Cabinet's decision last month, and a Facebook group set up in support of the cause has more than 2,000 members.

Meanwhile, it was revealed that one of the original Leas lift carriages, which has had a £25,000 restoration, is to occupy a permanent place on the seafront at the Lower Leas Coastal Park.

The 1890 Leas Lift Carriage Restoration Appeal, run by Robert Moulard and Jack Gill has been raising funds since October, 2006, for the four-tonne wooden carriage to be a central feature of Folkestone's rejuvenation.

The Victorian Society has also joined the

battle against the possible closure of the lift.

Its spokeswoman Heloise Brown said: "Experience has shown us that once a building such as this is neglected, even for a short time, it quickly becomes almost impossible to bring it back into use."

"Without regular maintenance the cost of renovation goes up and up and becomes harder to justify."

"The Leas Lift must be kept going until a new operator can be found, or this rare example of Victorian architecture and engineering will be lost to future generations."



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Mum fights authorities to provide the care her autistic son needs in his adult years

'What we are going through is inhumane'

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE MOTHER of a teenager with autism has spoken of her struggle to get him the appropriate further education he needs to fulfil his potential.

Elaine Butler, who lives in Farningham, was among thousands of supporters who took part in a rally to mark World Autism Day and



CAMPAIGN: Thousands of campaigners march on Whitehall on World Autism Day in to raise awareness over the condition

delivered a letter to Downing Street urging the Government to do more for people with the condition.

She took to the podium in Trafalgar Square and spoke about her experience of 'transition' – the difficult journey from childhood to adulthood that autistic young people face.

Mrs Butler has been embroiled in a dispute with Kent County Council and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for more than 13 months over funding for her 19-year-old son Matthew to attend a specialist college for young people with autism.

"We have spent months persuading KCC and the LSC to listen to us and what we know to be best for Matthew," she told KOS Media. "He has incredible untapped potential if he goes into further education."

Mrs Butler, 51, believes her son needs to go to a college that specifically caters for young people with autism, and after searching the country she found a centre in Norfolk run by the Eagle House Group.

Deteriorating

Matthew, who went to Milestone special school in New Ash Green, is unable to communicate verbally after suffering brain damage as an infant and needs round-the-clock care.

Mrs Butler said the row with KCC and the LSC has brought the family to breaking point, she said: "Matthew is deteriorating on a daily basis, he needs that structure. All the progress and development he has made at school is slowly unravelling before our eyes."

"He does not understand the battle over funding, but he has horrendous anxiety and is completely unsettled. It has made him very volatile."

"We have been trying to continue what we are doing and give him everything

possible, but it is a complete nightmare.

"We never envisaged this would be inflicted on a family going through all this, it is inhumane."

A new study by researchers at Cambridge University's Autism Research Centre (ARC) has estimated one in 58 children have some form of the disorder, which is almost double the previous estimate of around one in 100.

"Clearly KCC is not at all prepared for this need that is arising now with our younger generation," Mrs Butler said.

"Further education at this particular time of development is crucial to whether they are able to lead fulfilled and valued lives and whether they will become more self sufficient and independent."

"The long-term benefits are that it means these young people are unlikely to be a further drain on the public purse."

She believes Matthew is the victim of a postcode lottery because other young people

with autism at the college are funded by their local authority.

Controversially, she believes Matthew's autism was caused by the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine he was given at 18 months.

However, Professor Simon Baron-Cohen, who led the ARC study, said the higher rate of autism recently that was found by his researchers was down to better detection and diagnosis.

Vaccine 'safe'

He said: "At this point, one can conclude the evidence does not support the ideal that MMR causes autism."

The Health Protection Agency has stressed that the MMR vaccine is safe.

A Kent County Council spokesman said: "Our understanding is that no final decision has been made by the LSC and we will be continuing to work with them."



Picture: MIKE GUNNELL

STRUGGLE: Elaine Butler is battling KCC and the Learning Skills Council over the lack of care available to her autistic son, Matthew



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Extra hopes to rock beauty contest boat

DANCING diva Yasmin Pearce has her sights set on fame and fortune after reaching the semi-final stage of Miss England, *writes Steve Knight*.

The 19-year-old from Longfield, near Gravesend, plays the part of an extra in the current Richard Curtis film *The Boat That Rocked* and hopes further success in the competition could help launch a celebrity career.

Yasmin, who has been dancing since she was three, told KOS Media that winning Miss England would be a dream come true.

She said: "People always ask me what I want to do now I've left school, but I'm just going to wait and see what happens. I really enjoyed the Miss England photo-shoot so I'd like to get into modelling if I can, so fingers crossed the competition might open some doors for me."

"It would be amazing to win. My boyfriend took me to The Troxy in London for last year's final and

I just wanted to be up on the stage as the centre of attention. When I found out they were accepting applications for this year, I just thought 'why not?'"

A former pupil at Cobham Hall School in Gravesend, Yasmin has gained grades in modern dancing and tap as well as reaching the silver and elementary levels in jazz and ballet respectively.

She also has 10 GCSEs and three A-levels to her name, and can speak French and Spanish.

Yasmin made it to the semi-finals of Miss England after tying for first place in the fifth heat of the Miss Fresh Photographic contest.

She said: "I didn't know what to say at first because it was a bit of a shock, but I was obviously delighted."

"It would be wonderful to get to the finals and I would be ecstatic if I were to win that too. I never thought it would be possible to even get this far."

"It's a dream come true."

Yasmin appears in *The Boat That Rocked* as a companion of DJ Gavin, played by Notting Hill star Rhys Ifans.

It was her second film role after having previously been cast as 'lacrosse player number eight' in 2008 teen comedy *Wild Child*, for which she had a speaking role.

Yasmin said: "I was invited along to the casting of *The Boat That Rocked* and I was chosen to be a part of it."

"I was paired off with Rhys Ifans and Richard Curtis was extremely pleased with our work because we only had to shoot our scenes a few times."

"It was a great experience and fingers crossed I'll be able to do some more of the same in the future."

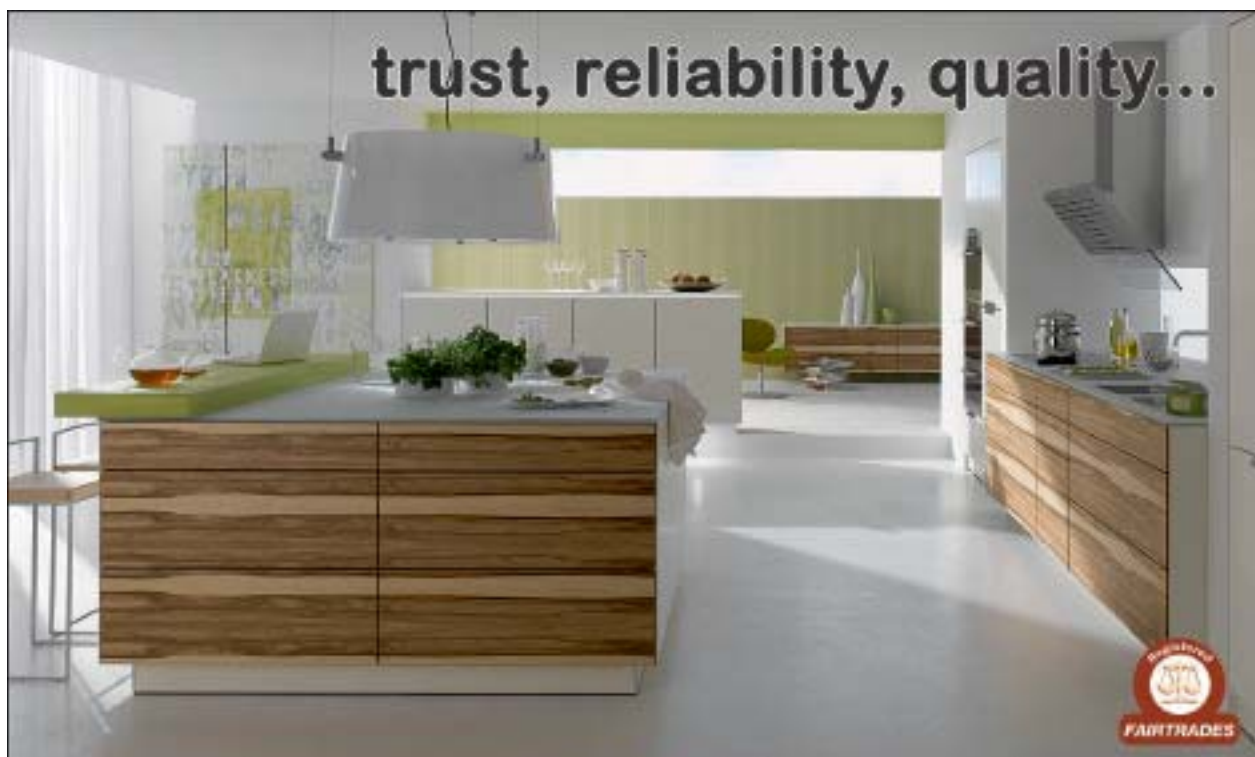
The semi-finals of Miss England will be held at Champneys Springs health resort, Leicestershire, on Monday, June 8.

A further place at the competition is also available for the winner of Miss Kent, which is still accepting entries.

Visit www.missengland.info/enter-now.



STAR: Yasmin Pearce, left, plays next to Rhys Ifans in *The Boat That Rocked*



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Manhunt after attacks on cars

A VANDAL is being hunted by police after damaging eight parked cars in Rochester last week.

Deep scratches – thought to have been inflicted by a knife or key – were cut into the vehicles in Castle Hill between 5.30-6pm on Friday, April 3.

It is thought the vandal has caused hundreds of pounds of damage to the cars.

Det Sgt Terry Easterby said: "This is a very unusual and isolated incident, as this type of crime remains uncommon in Rochester and Medway."

"However, a number of people have had their cars damaged and we are keen to find out who is responsible."

"If anyone knows who is responsible or has any details about this incident then I would encourage them to contact Kent Police in Medway on 01634 891055 or call Kent CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Birth defects reported in offspring of Kendall House 'chemical cosh' victims

Inquiry calls over drugging scandal at CofE care home

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

CALLS are growing for an independent inquiry into a drugging scandal at a children's home run by the Church of England.

An investigation found that a group of former residents of Kendall House in Gravesend have gone on to have children with birth defects.

BBC Radio 4's Today programme claimed the women were given massive doses of tranquilisers to sedate them when they were teenagers.

One of the girls, Teresa Cooper, was at Kendall House from the age of 14 and was given a "chemical cosh" of medication at least 1,248 times during her 32-month stay, which included 11 different drugs.

Since leaving in 1984, she has gone on to have three children with birth defects. Her eldest son was born with respiratory problems; her second is blind and has learning difficulties; and her daughter was born with a cleft palate and short lower jaw.

Will McMahon, chair of the Care Leavers' Association, which supports adults who were in care as children, said: "The Church of England needs to allow independent access to its records so a full and comprehensive inquiry can take place."

"The leadership of the Church needs to explain what it knew, when did it know and what steps did it take in response."

The Diocese of Rochester, which was running the home at the time, said it could not comment on any individual case but that it would co-operate with any official inquiry.

Talking of her experience at Kendall House, Ms Cooper said: "Every single day I wanted to die, and because I couldn't die I'd cut myself up."

"I'd break pens, I'd break anything that could cut, anything. If I could pull a nail out of the bed or something, I'd use that. I'd slice myself up."

'Changes in genes and chromosomes induced by these drugs may lead to birth defects or abnormalities'

"Because I didn't feel the pain, really. You don't feel the pain, you're so drugged you don't feel it."

Files from the care home show that she had no mental illness and her "problems" were "caused wholly by very difficult home circumstances".

Jeffrey Aronson, professor of clinical pharmacology at Oxford University, spoke about the effects of the amount and types of drugs given to Ms Cooper, which included major tranquilisers, valium and diazepam up to 10 times the current recommended dose.

"That would act as what people used to call a chemical cosh ... something that knocks you out. This girl was being given large amounts of drugs that act on the brain in many different ways," he told Today.

Ms Cooper decided to trace other former Kendall girls to see if they had suffered similar problems. She found 10 had gone on to have children with birth defects, including brain tumours and learning difficulties.

Prof Aronson said: "Changes in genes and chromosomes induced by drugs may lead to birth defects or abnormalities later in life. The fact that 10 of them might have been affected is quite suggestive."

Shadow children's minister Tim Loughton has urged the Government and Ofsted to investigate further.

Childcare experts from Ofsted said hundreds of children in care during the 1970s and 80s had their behaviour controlled with drugs. Therefore, many more children could have gone on to suffer health problems similar to those reported by the former residents of Kendall House.

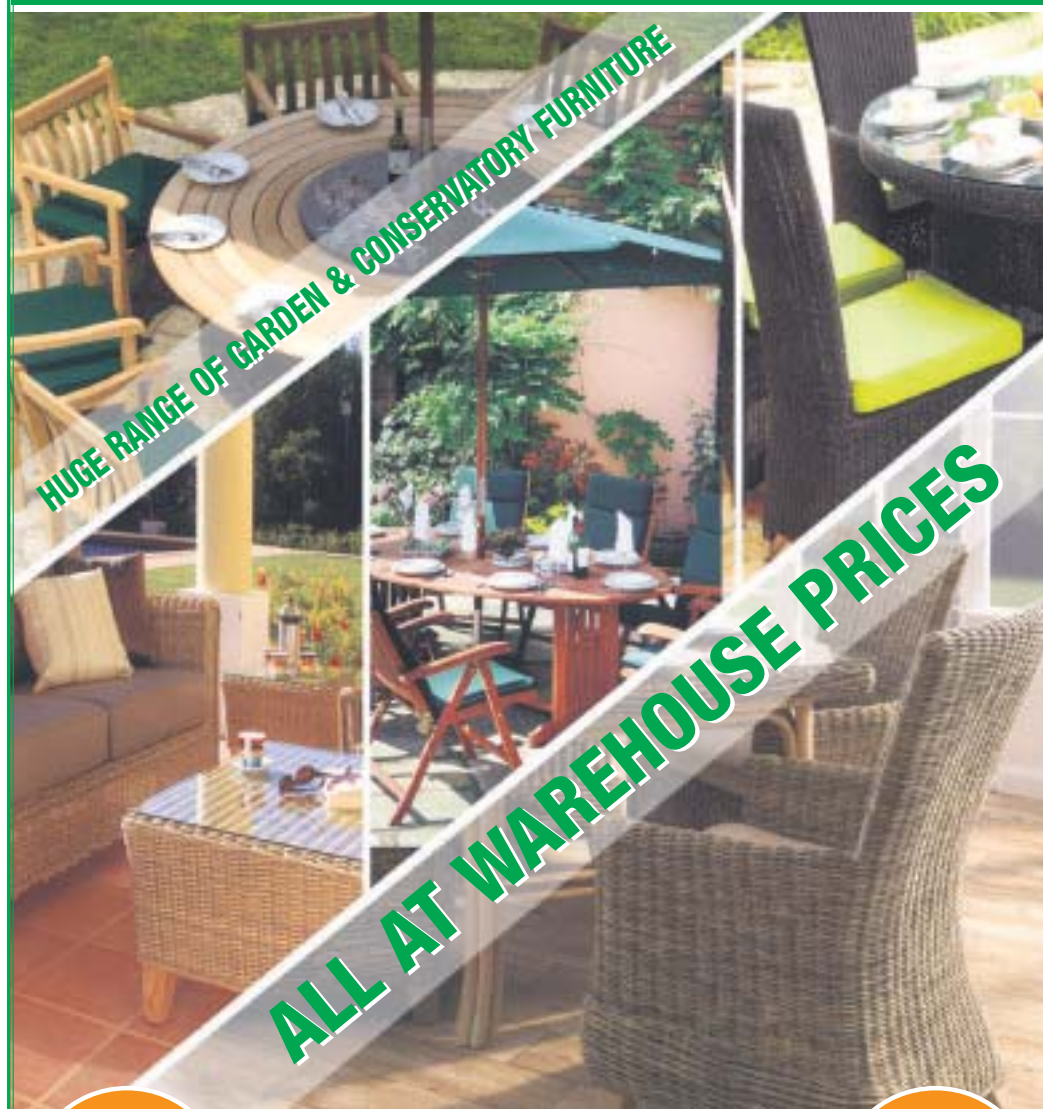
In a statement, the Diocese of Rochester said it was unable to discuss individual circumstances for legal reasons.

"However, if the police, social services or appropriate legal body initiates an investigation, the diocese will co-operate fully with them," the statement read.

"It would be inappropriate for the diocese to initiate any internal inquiries since we are not qualified to do this. In any event it would be essential for any investigation to be conducted both professionally and impartially."

A Kent Police official said: "We have fully investigated previous allegations concerning Kendall House, but no prosecutions have arisen from these. We would co-operate with any other inquiry, should one be commenced."

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Recycling revolution as collection tanks open across county

Oiling the wheels of green energy



FAT LOT OF GOOD: Cooking oil can be converted into eco-friendly fuel by Living Fuels

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

COOKING oil collection tanks have been opened at 16 sites throughout the county to help people contribute to a new eco-friendly fuel.

The fuel – called LF100 – has no chemicals or agents added in the refining process and is used to generate clean electricity that is carbon neutral.

According to Living Fuels, the company behind the new energy source, just one litre of used cooking oil can be converted to produce enough energy to make 240 cups of tea.

The collection tanks were opened on Tuesday at household waste recycling centres throughout the county, including in Maidstone, Dover, Canterbury, Herne Bay and Southfleet.

Living Fuels managing director Ian Collins explained why it was important for people to recycle the liquid when it is no longer needed. He said: "Every time another collection service is launched, it's an opportunity to get over the message that used cooking oil causes environmental damage when poured down the sink."

"It costs water companies millions to clear blockages caused in sewers by this build-up. We collect the oil at no cost to the taxpayer and as often as required."

The cooking oil recycled by Living Fuels comes predominantly from crops such as oil seed rape, sunflowers and soya.

Hazardous

Householders can take used oil to a storage tank using any suitable container, such as the bottle it was purchased in or a glass jar. It is eventually collected from recycling centres by vans that run on LF100 fuel.

Previously, much of the liquid waste was either dumped in landfill or poured down the sink, which can be hazardous to wildlife if it seeps into the water table.

Caterers are now legally required to dispose of used oil through registered and licensed collectors, or face large fines.

Councils have also been threatened with the same punishment if they do not help meet stringent green targets by reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Cllr Keith Ferrin, cabinet member for the environment at Kent County Council, welcomed the addition of the collection tanks, which can also be found in Faversham, Deal, Sheerness and Margate.

He said: "This is an excellent method of reusing a material that may have been poured down the sink or put into landfill."

"KCC is working towards raising its recycling rate to 42 per cent by 2011, and collection tanks like this are the way forward. We hope residents support the project."

Other recycling points can be found in Folkestone, Ashford, Sandwich, Dartford, Sittingbourne, Sundridge and Longfield.

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/hwrc for exact locations, opening times and a checklist of what materials will be accepted.



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Police investigate graffiti tags drawn on memorial

ONE of Ashford's best known landmarks has been hit by vandals.

The World War One tank in Castle Street, next to the rear entrance of the Park Mall shopping centre, has been scrawled over by blue marker pen.

Police estimate the damage could amount to £500.

The tank, a dedicated war memorial, was originally presented to the town in August, 1919, by Captain Ferrar of the Army Council in recognition of the town's response to the National War Savings appeal.

In 2005 major restoration work

was carried out on the vehicle by local engineer Keith Williamson.

Police would like to speak to two teenagers seen in the area.

They are a white female, aged 15, with a dark brown ponytail and wearing a dark coloured hoody, and white male, aged 15, wearing a white hoody, with the hood up, dark tracksuit trousers and dark trainers.

Police say similar tags have been seen in Park Farm. If you have information contact PCSO Helen Ingram on 07969 584297, or police on 01303 289180, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: The temple will be part-opened following the Vaisakhi procession next weekend

Temple to open on festival day

By **SIFELANI MLAMBO**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Vaisakhi is expected to draw thousands to town

MAJOR sections of the biggest and most ornate Sikh temple ever built outside India will be officially opened to coincide with the annual Vaisakhi festival.

The £12 million temple, or gurdwara, being built in Khalsa Avenue, Gravesend, is similar to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India, which is the holiest place for more than 20 million Sikhs worldwide.

Although an ambitious project, the building of the gurdwara is unique as it has been largely financed by the community. Volunteers have also travelled from India to help construct the temple that is expected to become a tourist attraction.

Stonemasons from India are cur-

rently working on the temple, which will be clad inside and out with specially imported marble and granite that is bound to prove eye-catching.

The Sikh secretary general in Kent, Narinder Thandi said the community has so far contributed £10 million towards the project.

Efforts are being made to raise a further £2m for the temple to be completed by next year's Vaisakhi festival, one of the most important dates in the calendar for Sikhs.

Unlike traditional Sikh temples worldwide, the Khalsa Temple will have a library, a creche and an art gallery.

Mr Thandi said the design of the Khalsa Temple was inspired by

famous Sikh temples in India, but some significant modifications have been made, including having computer training rooms.

"Sections which will be opened this month include a dining room, two prayer halls and some offices," he said, adding the gurdwara will have space for around 1,200 worshippers and has parking for 200 cars and four coaches.

Mr Thandi said the official opening on Saturday, April 18, following the annual Vaisakhi procession through Gravesend, is expected to be attended by thousands of people.

He continued: "The Sikh community has been part of Kent for decades and this is our home."

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University sets green standard

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A UNIVERSITY has won national recognition for its work to reduce its carbon footprint.

The University of Kent has been awarded the Carbon Trust Standard, recognising its commitment to measuring, managing and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

Deputy vice-chancellor professor Keith Mander said: "I congratulate all those staff and students who are working together to reduce the university's use of increasingly scarce natural resources.

"I hope the steps we have taken will further

improve the university's contribution to environmental sustainability in the coming years."

The award has been set up and managed by the Carbon Trust, which was established by the Government in 2001 as an independent company to accelerate the country's move to a low-carbon economy.

The university is one of only eight in the country to achieve the trust's standard accreditation level 1, and among 71 organisations in total nationally.

Peter Czarnomski, director of estates at the university, said: "This is a magnificent achievement for the university.

"It is a public acknowledgement of our hard work to minimise our impact on the environment and our commitment to being a responsible corporate citizen."

The award provides a benchmark for the

trust to assess an organisation's or company's commitment to addressing climate change.

To achieve the certificate organisations must measure its carbon footprint, for example the amount of electricity and fuel used on site, including fuel used by vehicles.

Emissions

It involves providing evidence of investment in new equipment to reduce carbon emissions and how staff are being trained to consider their environmental impact. Organisations must show they have reduced their greenhouse gas emissions over the last year.

The university is now taking further initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint including upgrading to high-efficiency lighting units, greater management of energy consumption, improving insulation and

promoting greater use of public transport.

Members of the students' union are working to raise awareness among staff, students and the wider university community about energy performance and to encourage people to make positive lifestyle changes.

Tom Delay, chief executive of the trust, said: "Achieving the Carbon Trust Standard will enable organisations to take advantage of the bottom line benefits that come from reducing carbon emissions.

"It will also help brands stand out from the crowd as research shows consumers and business decision makers choose an organisation with an award like the Carbon Trust Standard over another of similar price and quality."

• **For more information about the Carbon Trust Standard visit www.carbontrust.co.uk.**



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New arrivals to hit spot at wildlife park

Pictures: DAVE ROLFE



RARE: Two North China leopards roam their enclosures at Howletts

TWO rare North China leopards are settling into their new enclosure at a Kent wild animal park.

Saia, a male who is almost three years old, is from Thoiry near Paris and the female, Ting Ting, from Karlsruhe near Stuttgart, is almost four.

The animals are so rare they are almost never seen in the wild, but visitors to Howletts near Canterbury might be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of them roaming around their new home.

Saia and Ting Ting are part of a world-wide breeding programme

and it is hoped they will continue a healthy blood line at Howletts.

A spokeswoman for the zoo said: "They usually mate seasonally during the months of January and February with an oestrus cycle of approximately 46 days.

"The female produces a litter of up to two, but mortality is high.

"In the wild, they find a cave, crevice, hollow tree or thicket to give birth and make a den.

"Cubs are born with a grey coat with less defined markings and longer and thicker fur than adults."

In the wild the young leopards must be able to hunt for themselves by the time they are one but they remain with their mother for up to two years.

The North Chinese subspecies has longer fur than other leopards and a much darker coat. They bear close resemblance to a jaguar with its distinctive rosette pattern.

A census more than five years ago found there were around 2,500 of the leopards living in the wild but only 100 in captivity.

They prey on rodents, deer, wild pigs and goats.



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Abi's in pole position

Glamour girl ditches lads' mags for the stage

EVERYTHING you wanted to know about what goes on at pole-dancing classes but were afraid to ask is laid bare in a new play starring Abi Titmuss, *writes Chris Murphy*.

The former nurse-turned-sex-symbol is no stranger to scandal. She forged a saucy new career for herself after leaving behind her NHS uniform to become one of Britain's best-known glamour models.

Personal sex tapes and high-profile relationships with celebs cemented her position in the world of lads' mags.

In fact she appeared on the covers of 38 of them during 2003. Since then she has been carving out a career as a serious actress, having studied at the Central School of Speech and Drama and Kensington and Chelsea College, in London.

Titmuss has been on Hell's Kitchen and Love Island and published two successful books; Ten Fantasies, and recently The Secret Diaries of Abigail Titmuss.



UP FOR IT: Abi Titmuss stars in a new play about five very different women who join a pole-dancing class

Her first stage role was in 2006 in Arthur Miller's Two Way Mirror, for which she won the award of Best West End Debut, from theatre critics.

Now she is taking on the role of Gabby, a pole-dancing teacher whose apparent strength, compassion and confidence hides a guilty secret about love and the harsh realities of mixing business and pleasure in the play, The Naked Truth at Chatham's Central Theatre.

Men should beware though – there's a fair number of anti-male sentiments from her students as they learn to ply their trade.

It is described as a poignant and moving comedy, but just to underline the adult content of the show, it's only open to those over 16.

The Naked Truth was written by Dave Simpson for women about women; their relationships, their hang-ups, their attitudes to men, to each other, and finally to their bodies. He was also behind the West End hit Girls' Night Out.

It has been dubbed a mix between Calendar Girls and Stepping Out.

It follows five very different women as they struggle to conquer the art of pole

dancing for a charity event in aid of breast cancer.

As their stories unravel, the women share laughter and tears in this hilarious, sad and ultimately moving play.

Titmuss stars alongside Lisa Riley, best known for her role as Mandy Dingle in Emmerdale and a former host of You've Been Framed.

Also in the cast is Julie Buckfield (Hollyoaks), Emily Aston (Coronation Street), Lorraine Hodgson

(EastEnders) and Trudi Goodwin (The Bill).

Performances are on Friday, April 24, at 7.30pm and Saturday, April 25, at 5pm and 8pm. Tickets cost £18.50 and £17.50, Saturday matinee £16 and £14.50. Groups of eight people or more £2 off top-price tickets.

• To book contact the box office on 01634 338338 or visit www.medway.gov.uk/theatrebooking.



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IF YOU'RE wondering what to do with the little ones during the Easter holidays, then why not visit The Hop Farm Family Park, one of the region's best-loved children's attractions.

A host of exciting activities is planned, including the chance to see cute spring animals, and with two new attractions the fun doesn't stop there.

There will be regular encounters in the Hop Farm's animal farm with cuddly spring animals including lambs, fluffy chicks and rabbits.

Daily Easter Egg hunts will satisfy those with a sweet tooth and for the more creative types the arty crafty activities in the Craft and Pottery centre are a sure bet.

The attraction's resident entertainers, The Hop Squad, will be appearing throughout the holidays and don't miss their daily Easter song and dance show.

The new Great Goblin Hunt transports children to a fantasy world in a quest to find mischievous Goblins. On entering the attraction you're given a pair of special 3D glasses to wear which produce a spectacular effect designed to blow your mind.

Other exciting zones to be enjoyed include a dazzling underwater room and laboratory, the Children's Driving School, Giant Jumping Pillows, Legends In Wax, Yesterday's World Village, The Hop Story interactive museum and indoor and outdoor play areas. Children can also enjoy a ride on the Victorian 'Galloper' carousel.

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry. The closing date is April 20, 2009.

The ticket price includes entrance to the attraction and its events – for more details visit www.thehopfarm.co.uk or call 01622 870821.

Government backs anglers in EU face-off

Fishermen have a friend in row over limit on catches

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

SEA anglers have won support from the Government in their battle against European Union plans to limit the amount of fish they can catch.

Kent's boat charter companies, tackle shops and other related businesses fear financial ruin if they are forced to abide by the same strict quotas proposed for commercial fishermen throughout the Continent.

Last week members of the European Parliament voted to amend Article 47 of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) so the limits no longer applied to recreational anglers, but the proposals still need to be approved by the European Commission.

UK fisheries minister Huw Irranca-Davies has since said he will support the country's sea anglers until the regulation is finalised.

Livelihoods

Angling Trust campaigner Leon Roskilly, from Rainham, said: "I'm immensely reassured the UK Government is backing us on the issue of Article 47, including the many businesses and coastal communities that rely upon visiting sea anglers for their livelihoods."

"The minister's stated position on Article 47 reflects the effort put in by the Angling Trust, clubs and individual anglers to alert the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to the damage these proposals could do to a sector that is incredibly important to so many, and which is widely regarded as having minimal impact on fish stocks."

"That the Government is prepared to listen to our concerns at a time when anglers are reeling from mounting threats to our passion gives every angler hope for the future."

"We look forward to a continued and robust



UNDER THREAT: Recreational anglers are fighting European Union plans to limit the number of fish they are allowed to catch

defence of the rights and freedoms enjoyed by the nation's anglers against all unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions."

Article 47 in its original form would have required recreational fishermen to register their boats, with whatever they caught counted against the national fisheries quota.

Each country would also be required to decide what share of its quota to allocate to each species of fish.

The plans were introduced as a way of clamping down on those on the Continent who use large nets to gather fish, which they then use to feed their families.

However, South East Tory MEP Richard Ashworth, who lives in Folkestone, said he was confident sea-anglers would be happy with the end result of the CFP consultation.

He said: "I am sorry that an amendment submitted by my colleagues to delete Article 47 was defeated in the Fisheries Committee."

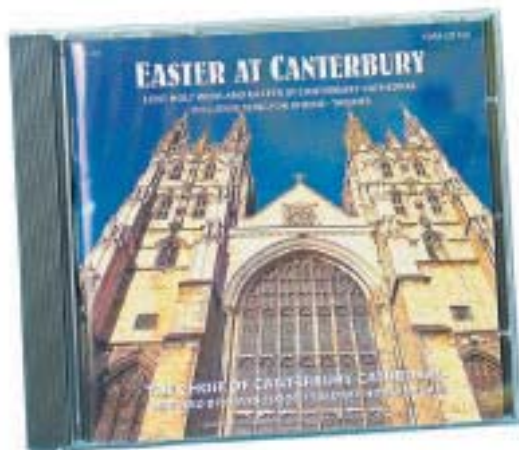
"However, the fallback amendment that won majority support reassures me that recreational anglers have nothing to fear."

"Only fishermen who target recovery stocks such as cod, hake, eel and bluefin tuna and seek to sell their catch will come under the jurisdiction of the CFP."

"Recreational anglers who are simply catching fish for their own consumption, even cod or other recovery stock fish, will not be affected."

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Rising film star Gemma recreates classic Liz Taylor picture

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

GRAVESEND-born Bond girl Gemma Arterton has reached for the cinematic heights early in her short but meteoric career by recreating a classic Elizabeth Taylor pose.

The saucy step back in time was to launch Virgin Media Shorts 2009, the short film competition which champions undiscovered UK film talent.

The 23-year-old star made her name in the St Trinian's remake, plus a little known Brit flick called Three and Out with The Office and Pirates of the Caribbean actor Mackenzie Crook.

Excited

Then she went on to appear in Quantum of Solace, and is now in cinemas starring in Richard Curtis's film about pirate radio, The Boat That Rocked.

Plus there are more movie appearances coming up in Prince of Persia, The Disappearance of Alice Creed and Clash of the Titans.

Elizabeth Taylor was Oscar nominated for her role as Maggie in the 1958 classic Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.

Arterton said: "I'm so excited that I got to recreate the iconic shot that made Elizabeth Taylor a household name."

"She is a complete goddess and my



SEDUCTIVE: Gemma Arterton and the picture made famous by Elizabeth Taylor (right)

favourite actress in the whole world.

"I had such a ball on set and I hope that by taking people back to the Golden Age of cinema, we're giving all budding film makers food for thought for Virgin Media Shorts."

Virgin Media Shorts aims to shine a light on the best up-and-coming British film makers with the help of a prestigious judging panel from across the film industry.

Arterton will team up with Oscar-winning stage and screen actor Kevin Spacey, who

appears on the judging panel for the second year running.

He said: "With the success of last year's competition and the high calibre of entries, I'm delighted to be a part of the Virgin Media Shorts judging panel for the second year running."

"As it is increasingly difficult to get a break in the film industry, we're hoping to uncover and champion the next big thing in British film through this worthwhile competition."



"I've long been a supporter of emerging talent, and it's why I co-founded the TriggerStreet.com initiative eight years ago."

Last year's competition was won by London-based film makers Phil Sansom and Olly Williams for their short film The Black Hole and the duo are due to start filming later this year with funding from the competition.

Ashley Stockwell, executive director of brand and marketing said: "For anyone who has ever dreamt of making it big in Hollywood, Virgin Media Shorts provides a fantastic opportunity to get in front of an audience of millions."

"This year's competition promises to be even bigger and better, and we're proud to be able to help uncover the hottest British film talent this country has to offer."

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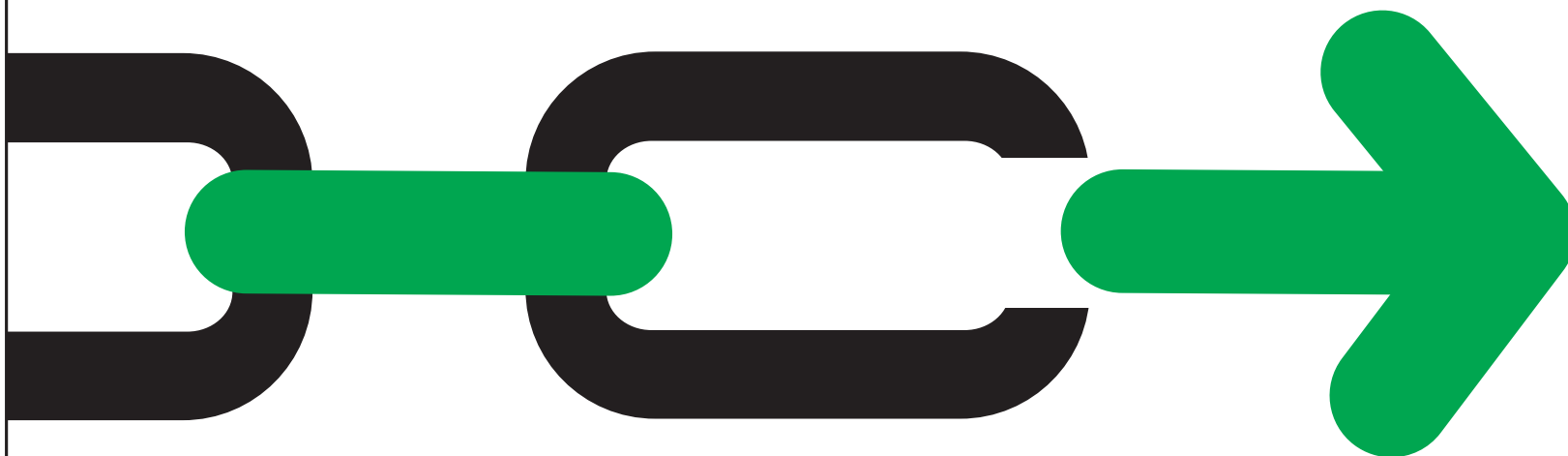
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Young film-maker prepares to make documentary on history of coastal resort

Back to Herne Bay front

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE history of a coastal town from its heyday in the Victorian era to its more recent decline is set to be explored by a young film-maker.

Josh White, who lives in Herne Bay, has chosen his home town as the subject of a documentary he is making with the help and memories of residents.

The 22-year-old has already begun research on the project entitled Herne Bay: Past and Present, which will take viewers back to early the 1800s when the town began to grow from a small village on the north Kent coast.

"I'm local to the area and have lived here pretty much all my life. This is my home and film-making and documentary-making is something I love to do," he said.

"As I'm just starting out, I thought it would be great to do something about a place I love."

Mr White, who studied film at Canterbury Christ Church University, has been working as a freelance cameraman and teaching film-making at his former university since he graduated in 2007. In the 1830s a group of businessmen saw Herne Bay's potential as a seaside resort, which led to its expansion and eventually it became a top destination for Victorian tourists.

"From then they built the pier and the town grew and grew," Mr White said.

"Townhouses were built but no-one really started living there immediately. But eventually people thought, 'Hang on, this is a nice



BAY WATCH: Film studies graduate Josh White, left, is ready to focus on the history of Herne Bay for his first documentary project

place to live'. Shops opened and the town started to grow. Herne Bay was pretty much built up from tourism."

The town once boasted the second longest pier in England, although most of the 3,800ft structure was washed away by winter storms in 1978, cutting off the end of the pier.

The landward end now houses a modern roller skating rink. In more recent times Neptune's Arm was built near the old pier to shelter boats from the sea.

The resort is also home to what is believed to be the oldest free-standing clocktower in the country, said Mr White. "It was built by a wealthy lady from London who is said to have been a bit crazy," Mr White said. "She was told in a dream to build a clocktower and it was completed in 1837."

Today Herne Bay retains much of the charming seafront architecture that was built by the Victorians.

"It was at its peak was during Victorian times, when Britons started holidaying at seaside resorts," Mr White said.

But as foreign travel became more accessible Herne Bay went into decline and, like many coastal towns, it is still trying to recover.

"They are doing a lot to keep it going," Mr White said. "But some residents feel that although Canterbury council makes the public spaces look nice, it puts most of its money into the city."

He said people living in the Bay felt neglected by the council and overlooked in favour of Canterbury. Mr White said he had

spoken to Herne Bay Pier Trust, which is trying to raise money to restore the pier.

"There are big decisions to be made – people want it to restored to its heyday," he said.

Filming on the project will begin this summer and will include aerial shots of the town, Mr White said. It is hoped the documentary will be finished and on sale by November.

Mr White is continuing his research and wants to hear from anyone with information and stories about the history of Herne Bay, including old photos and film. Call 01227 500265 or email info@joshwhite.co.uk if you can help.

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WISH YOU WERE HERE: Victorian gems such as the Central Bandstand and clocktower have added to Herne Bay's natural and historic attractions, such as Herne windmill



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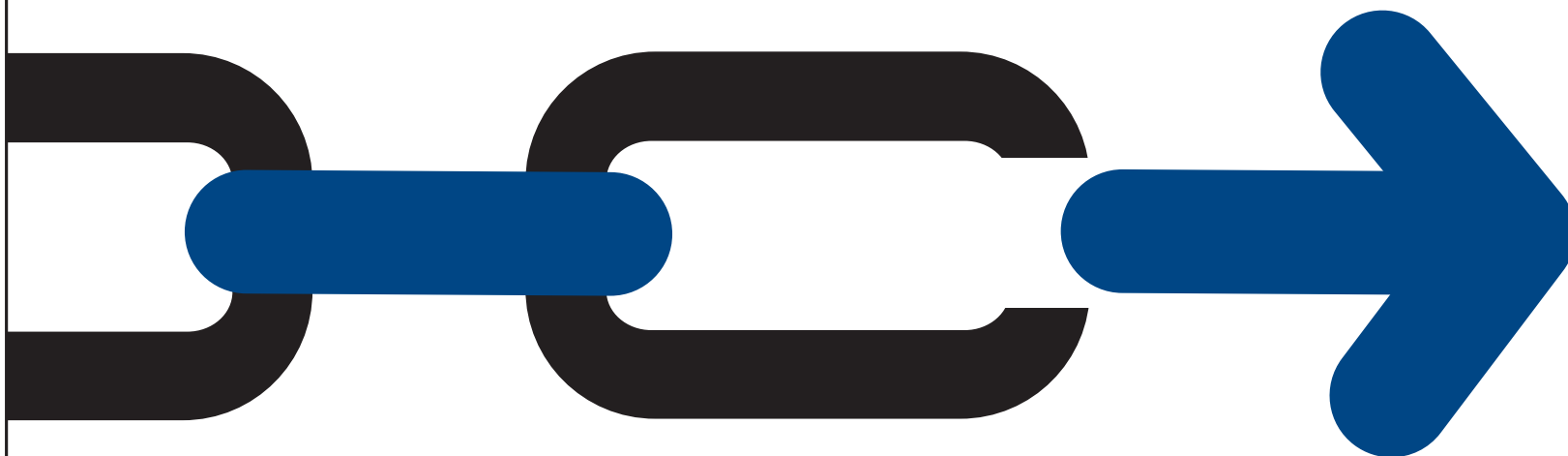
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'Mr W' logged on to net Lotto cash

A MYSTERY Lottery player from Kent has won £134,081 without even buying a ticket.

The lucky person, known only as Mr W, matched five numbers and the bonus ball by registering with the National Lottery's online service.

He is the second player in the county to have won this way in 2009 following the success of Mrs N, who scooped £135,825 in February.

A National Lottery spokesman said: "Many congratulations to Mr W, who has become a winner by barely lifting a finger. In fact, he need not have got out of bed in order to win this massive prize."

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THIS stunning photo of a barn owl was taken by Oliver Mannion.

It was shot early on a Saturday morning last month in the middle of a field in the village of Wickhambreux just outside Canterbury.

Mr Mannion said: "I was very surprised to see it, as I often go there to photograph other forms of wildlife living along the Nailbourne river."

images of Kent

"I was following its whereabouts from a distance for most of the morning, and found out that it was nesting in a large tree."

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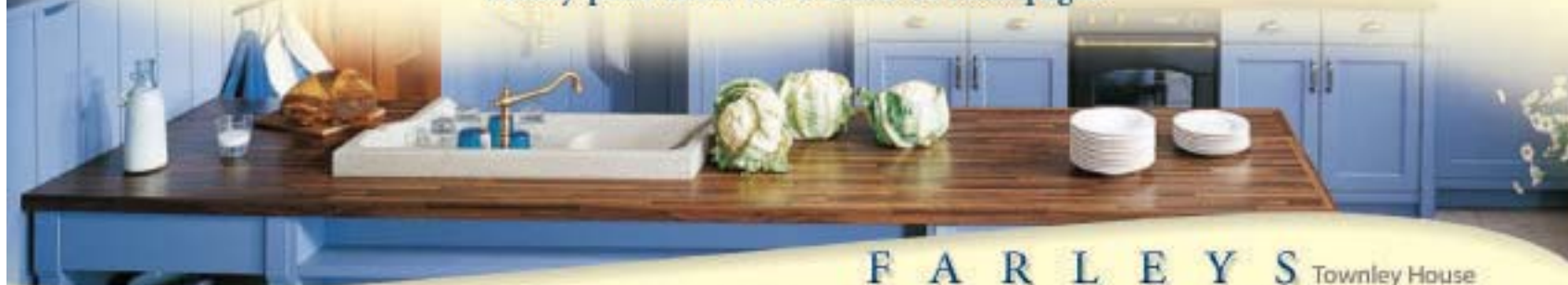
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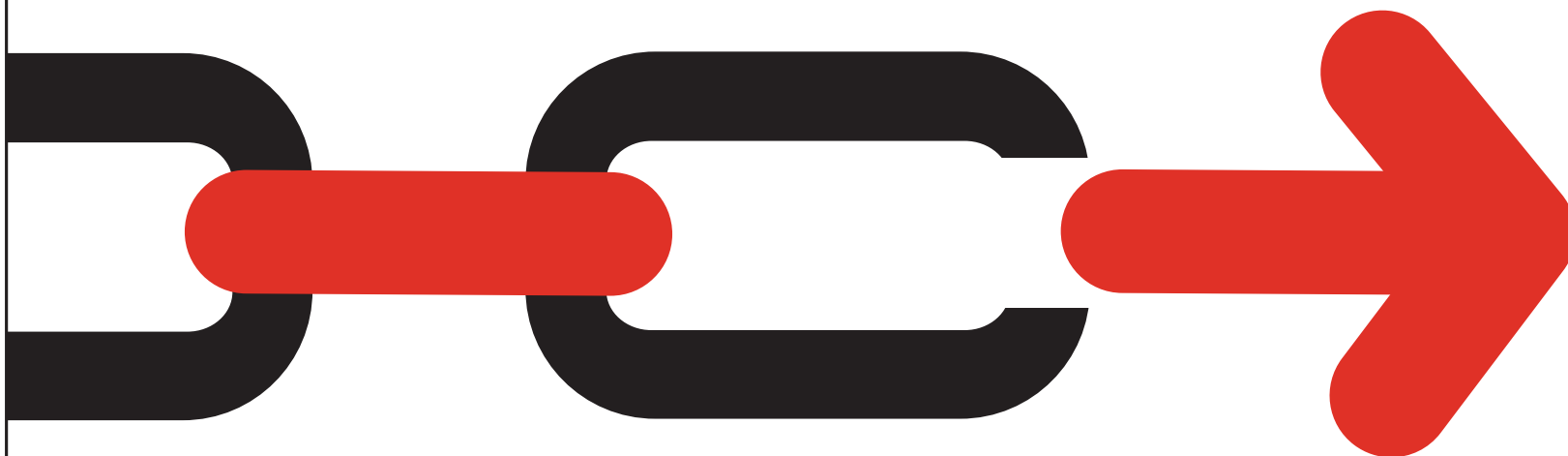


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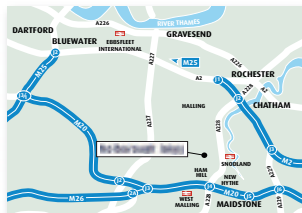
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KOS Campaign 2009



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foodforkent.co.uk



CHRIS BRITCHER
CAMPAIGN EDITOR
chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture: DAVID ROUSE

HEALTHY DIET: Feeding the gorillas some of their five-a-day are Jonathan Parker of foodforkent.co.uk and Robert Boutwood, director of fundraising projects for The Aspinall Foundation

Wild animal park partnership encourages us to go ape for our five-a-day

Gorillas are good role models

TWO of the county's foremost wild animal parks have thrown their support behind our campaign.

The Aspinall Foundation, which runs both Howletts in Bekesbourne, near Canterbury, and Port Lympne near Hythe, are to help champion locally produced and supplied food and drink.

And they could not have teamed up with KOS Media's 2009 campaign at a better time, as our website spearheading our

efforts welcomes some real treats this week; including delicious Kentish asparagus and strawberries grown between Faversham and Whitstable.

Not only will the much-acclaimed parks highlight the benefits of backing local producers through buying from our www.foodforkent.co.uk website, but park customers who use the Aspinall Foundation's Maestro pre-paid card will receive a discount.

The animals are celebrating too, after they got the chance to chow down on some of the delicious local produce as Foodforkent's Jonathan Parker visited the parks with supplies.

He explained: "It is amazing when you look at the diet of a gorilla. It contains more of the government recommended five-a-day than most of ours.

"Perhaps we can learn a thing or two from them by going back to eating fresh, seasonal local produce."

Foodforkent.co.uk sees us team up with the cream of the crop of local suppliers and producers to deliver the tastiest, best value food and drink direct to your door.

Wherever possible, it was grown right here in Kent which means every penny you spend goes straight back into the local economy; protecting jobs, communities and Kent's rural traditions.

Mr Parker added: "We are thrilled to join forces with the Aspinall Foundation as we stand for precisely the same green, conservation values.

"The Foundation are keen to lend their support to our local food campaign and have organised a five per cent discount for any customers using the Aspinall Foundation Maestro Prepaid card. The card is free and obtained from www.savingthegorillas.com."

Robert Boutwood, director of fundraising projects for The Aspinall Foundation, said: "I am delighted to see this partnership between the Aspinall Foundation and foodforkent.co.uk; two organisations who are able to deliver the Government's message on healthy eating.

"Being a strong supporter of locally sourced produce, our partnership gives us a great opportunity to let the people of Kent try local produce and help the gorillas."

A taste of the feedback from satisfied customers

I found the website to be incredibly easy to use especially compared to some of the other produce delivery websites... the driver was very polite and friendly... the produce I have tried I have enjoyed, it is of a great standard... I will definitely be shopping with you again... I would like to say I think the Food For Kent campaign is a brilliant idea, and I hope more people will use this and support our local farmers.

Carla, Wouldham, nr Rochester

The website was very easy to use and I liked that you could see where produce was sourced... the veg was very fresh... I will most certainly be using you again!

Vicki, Canterbury

I am very pleased with the Food for Kent produce and have just placed my next order... the website is very easy to navigate. I like the recipe ideas section for what's in season and



information about the producers too... it is great to eat local produce and know where it has come from... I have been tempted to try veggie box deliveries before but it is far easier for me to be able to pick exactly what I want and need.

Jessica, Folkestone



In season this week

In season this week

Romanesque
Strawberries
Beef tomatoes
Asparagus

Still great

Baby, plum, cherry tomatoes
Spring lamb
Cucumbers
Baby salad
Dover sole



Coasting for treats

AS WE reported previously, seafood lovers can cast their net far and wide across the county thanks to a new fish trail.

Created and promoted by Produced in Kent – the not-for-profit organisation supported by Kent County Council and Hadlow College – the Soul to Sole Fish Trail takes you on a tour of our beautiful coastline, highlighting the tasty treats it serves up and the history behind it.

The launch recently took place at The Coastguard pub and restaurant in St Margaret's Bay – and you can see the highlights for yourself on our free broadband TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk. Simply search 'fish'.

Straight to your door

WANT to see what all the fuss is about? Our 2009 campaign encouraging readers to buy locally produced food and drink is spearheaded by www.foodforkent.co.uk.

It makes shopping for all your family's weekly needs easy – just fill your online shopping basket with delicious local produce, and before you know it, it will be delivered direct to your door.



foodforkent.co.uk

We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at foodforkent.co.uk or email us at feedback@kosmedia.co.uk

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Award Winning Company

Author delves into realms of political fantasy and hands Tory MP top job in novel

Widdecombe named new PM

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ANN WIDDECOMBE for Prime Minister? Only in the event of hell freezing over, or perhaps Armageddon many may say – but that's exactly what happened in a new comical book.

Author David Gee has penned just such a scenario in his book of Middle East meltdown – *Shaikh-Down*.

He said: "I see the world destroying itself and Ann Widdecombe becomes our esteemed prime minister."

"I think she would be a great PM and make Margaret Thatcher look like Mary Poppins. She is always on the side of right, and doesn't always let party political wrangling get in the way."

And Miss Widdecombe herself is delighted. She laughed and said: "I always wanted to be Prime Minister and now I am glad I am, even if it's only in fiction."

The 61-year-old Conservative MP for Maidstone and the Weald is stepping down at the next General Election, having first won the seat in 1987.

When it was pointed out that there was not much of a world left after the nukes finished their work, she sighed and said: "Yeah, well. That's probably the only world where I would be Prime Minister."

Even with the chance of becoming Prime Minister in the future looming thanks to the book, Miss Widdecombe still says she is leaving politics.



LEADERSHIP SHAIKH-UP: Ann Widdecombe (far right) says she is flattered to be Prime Minister in author David Gee's (left) apocalyptic comic novel, *Shaikh-Down*, set in the Middle East

She said: "I don't think I will be tempted to stay on with that hope."

And of the comparison to Mrs Thatcher, Miss Widdecombe said: "I don't think anyone could make Margaret Thatcher look like Mary Poppins, but I am very flattered by the comparison."

Mr Gee, from Newhaven, sees the Middle East imploding amid tales of excessive sex and petrodollars.

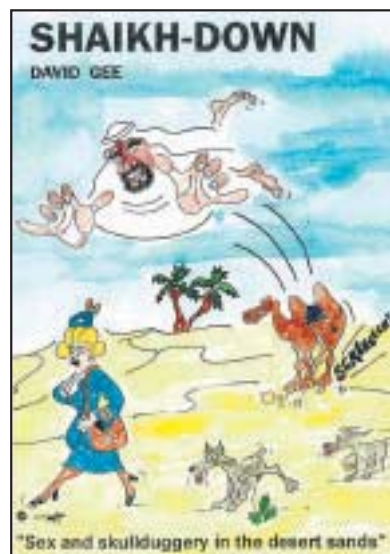
He said: "There are revolutions all over the Arab world and a little event called Armageddon in this book, which is a comedy."

"Ann Widdecombe becomes our Prime Minister. Although I don't go into a lot of detail about her, I do call her redoubtable and Churchillian."

"I have emailed her with details of the book, but she has not got back to me yet – I hope she is not too upset with me."

As for being described as Churchillian, she said: "Oh, very nice, too."

Summing up the book, Mr Gee said: "On the Persian Gulf island of Belaj, Egyptian belly-dancers and British airhostesses are working overtime to relieve



randy Arabs of their frustrations and their petrodollars.

"One of the punters is murdered: whisky-soaked publisher Farouk whose nymphomaniac wife Nayla is a niece of the local despot, His Highness Shaikh Khalid al-Khazi."

"Newcomer Cass, an east London housewife, becomes a \$500 hooker. Sammy-Jo, an American stewardess with page-3-girl boobs and nerdy British banker Eddy are drawn



into a plot by BARF, the Belaj Armed Revolutionary Front, to assassinate the Amir in a bizarre bedroom romp."

• *Shaikh-Down* can be ordered from UK bookshops, price £6.99, or online at www.amazon.co.uk.

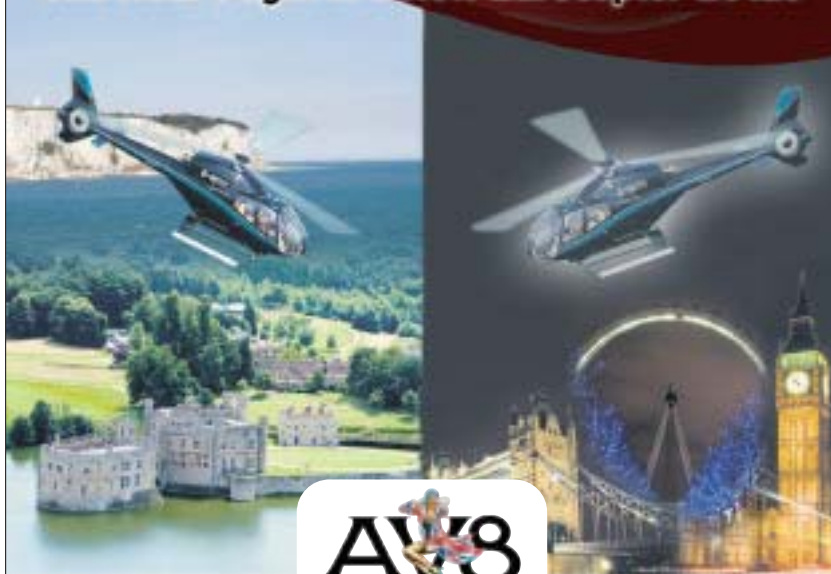
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Developer planning 620 riverside homes

PLANS to transform a waterside site into a major mixed-use community have been submitted to Medway Council.

The detailed proposal for Temple Waterfront would see 620 homes built on the 28-hectare brown-field site along with shops, retail outlets and businesses.

The Strood site's half-mile waterfront, which overlooks Rochester castle and cathedral, will be adorned with public walkways and open spaces, while wildlife habitats will be protected and enhanced.

Morgan Timber, co-owner of the land with Medway Council and Lafarge Cement UK, will remain on site in improved premises.

Work on the site is expected to be carried out swiftly after Lafarge and Medway Council bosses

signed a Planning Performance Agreement, a new system designed to simplify and speed up large-scale development proposals.

Lafarge's land and planning director David Simms said: "The submission of our planning application, together with the signing of the planning performance agreement, is a huge step forward."

"Temple Waterfront, with its links to the M2 and superb views across the river to Rochester castle and cathedral, is one of our most important sites."

"It has massive potential and we're determined to see that potential realised."

Medway Council leader Rodney Chambers added: "This application is another milestone for our 20-year regeneration programme."

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Pet project latest hit for pop master

Songwriter and producer hits top-10 once again on Pet Shop Boys' stunning return

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT'S very own pop genius Brian Higgins has notched up more success with the release of the new Pet Shop Boys album.

Higgins, and his writing and production company Xenomania in Westerham, are also behind a multitude of hit records by Girls Aloud.

And their client list includes a host of other household names including the likes of Dannii Minogue, Cher, Sugababes, Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Kylie Minogue, Steps, Texas, and Saint Etienne.

Girls Aloud former manager Louis Walsh, said of the prolific production house and Higgins' particular skills: "He just makes great songs for radio."

"They just jump out at you and stay in your brain."

Now he has finished work on Yes, the 10th LP in 25 years from the Pet Shop Boys, famous for singles like West End Girls and Rent. It hit number four in the UK chart on release.

Energy

Singer Neil Tennant is delighted with the work of Higgins and Xenomania, saying: "Musically, the climate seems amenable to us at the moment."

Keyboardist Chris Lowe said of the company: "I imagine it's what it was like working at Motown. There's that real energy and real determination to have hit records."

The band and producers were so close, the album includes three tracks co-written by Xenomania, and another was given to Xenomania's regulars, Girls Aloud.

After single The Loving Kind hit the top 10, Lowe said: "I am absolutely over the moon."



CHART TOPPERS: Brian Higgins penned tracks on Pet Shop Boys' new LP, Yes, and his company has written all of Girls Aloud's (left) hits



smashes, four number ones and raking in around £50 million.

The company was launched in 1998 after Higgins failed to make it as a solo artist. He spotted Cooper as a backing singer to British Eurovision entry Gina G.

An attempt at launching Cooper as a solo star also stalled, so the pair turned to songwriting and production and the rest is now, as they say, history.

Higgins said the pair don't work with just anyone.

He told the Guardian: "If you're a production house, you're supposed to work with anyone and everyone: that's the rule."

"But if we don't feel excited by the prospect of the artist, then the record's going to be shit."

"The MDs don't tend to understand it when you turn them down – they just think you're being arrogant – but if we'd made records for everyone we'd been asked to over the last couple of years, I'd be a husk of a person by now."

"There'd be loads of money around, but the music would be terrible, and the depression would be raging through me."

Higgins, 42, is the notoriously reclusive son of a Cumbrian doctor.

He said in a recent rare interview: "What we stand for is everything about the interesting side of music, but with tunes the postman will whistle."

He runs the company with writing partner Miranda Cooper, who says no-one locally really knows them or their ducks called Edmund and Josephine.

She said: "It's not remotely rock 'n' roll. But there are lots of late nights. My husband Nick is a songwriter's widow."

"I have my phone with me all the time to record things. Sometimes even when the washing machine is going round or a train whizzes past, I end up writing something."

Xenomania is responsible for every one of Girls Aloud's 20 hits, notching up a string of Top 10

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Archbishop will take the lead at Easter pilgrimage

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Archbishop of Canterbury will walk with more than 800 youngsters as part of an Easter pilgrimage through the diocese.

Dr Rowan Williams will lead the huge group on Easter Monday to Canterbury Cathedral for a special Communion service, and will also be joined by the bishops of Dover and Maidstone.

The pilgrimage represents the story in the Bible of the road to Emmaus, which tells the tale of two disciples who were joined on their journey by Jesus Christ despite witnessing his crucifixion hours earlier.

Bishop of Dover Dr Stephen Venner explained to KOS Media the importance of such walks to people of all religions.

He said: "All the great faiths in the world have holy places to which their followers visit. Muslims go to Mecca, Jewish people travel to Jerusalem and one of the many places Christians come to is Canterbury Cathedral.

"Canterbury attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year who come here simply for that purpose, but

just because we all live nearby it doesn't mean we can't go on a pilgrimage there too."

Three separate groups of pilgrims will set off from the villages of Chartham, Sturry and Patricbourne from 10am on Easter Monday, with the cathedral service due to start at 12.15pm.

The trek has been taking place since the 1970s and will be the 10th and final for Dr Venner, who is retiring at the end of the year.

He said: "It's essential that we as bishops take part in it because we are the pastors of the Church, which obviously includes young people. "When we walk along with them we get into

all sorts of different conversations and it's a great opportunity for us to enjoy each other's company, which we do not usually receive on more formal occasions.

"I won't be thinking about the fact it will be my last one because otherwise I would be thinking that about everything up until I retire.

"It may well dawn on me next Easter Monday when I have to decide what I should do with myself."



News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk



TREK: Archbishop of Canterbury will head up the 800 pilgrims on Easter Monday

Young woman dies after 4x4 overturns

A YOUNG woman has died after the 4x4 she was travelling in with five other teenagers overturned in Canterbury.

The accident happened at 6.20pm on Saturday, April 4 just after the roundabout at the junction of Rheims Way, London Road and Knight Avenue.

A silver Land Rover Discovery driven by an 18-year-old Faversham man and carrying five teenagers overturned, trapping an 18-year-old woman from Faversham in the wreckage.

She was cut out and airlifted to the Royal London hospital, but died just before 4pm on Monday.

The other five teenagers, three boys and two girls, were treated for minor injuries at the William Harvey Hospital, Ashford.

No other vehicles were involved.

The road was closed until 12.30am on Sunday, April 5.

Police officers carried out further investigations at the roundabout in connection with the crash on Monday.

Kent Police's Serious Collision Investigation Unit is appealing for anyone with information to contact it on 01622 798538.

Dog saved after it gets head trapped

FIREFIGHTERS from Charing had to come to the aid of an ensnared dog that got its head wedged under a bus seat.

The animal had been travelling on the vehicle that was on its way to Pluckley at around 8pm last Friday.

Officers used cutting equipment to release the imprisoned pooch.

A spokesman for Kent Fire and rescue said: "One crew released the animal. He'd got his head wedged under a seat. What he was doing on a bus I have no idea."

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Age a concern to us all

IT'S shocking and saddening to think that in this day and age older people face discrimination in Kent hospitals.

The latest report by the newly merged charities Age Concern and Help the Aged has revealed some uncomfortable truths about how our society treats some of its most vulnerable adults.

As the charity warns, politicians of all parties must take note of its findings because it is no secret that we are living in an ageing society and older people are making up a growing number of the electorate.

It is heartbreaking to think of the growing number of older people who have contributed so much during their lives and who still have much to give, feeling lonely and isolated.

This problem must be addressed because at a human level it is saddening that some people do not even have a companion to enjoy a film or a pint with. It is also crucial because if increasing numbers of older people sink into depression or anxiety it will put even more strain on stretched mental health services.

More needs to be done to increase the already excellent work of voluntary organisations in carrying out preventative work. And certainly no-one of any age should be discriminated against by the NHS as it goes against its very core principle of offering free healthcare to all.

Easter's true message

KENT on Sunday would like to wish all its readers and advertisers a very Happy Easter.

At this time of indulging in chocolate eggs, it's important to remember that for Christians the weekend marks the rebirth of Jesus and so, Happy Resurrection Sunday.

OPINION:

The life and resurr-egg-tion

Easter could be hellish for a diabetic former chocoholic, but Chris Britcher has found there are compensations



I HAVE an interesting dilemma this weekend. I'd like to suggest it was some deep theological debate my conscience is wrestling with, a desperate mental battle, trying to figure out how the story of Jesus Christ and his sacrifice to save us all relates to me and my 21st century life.

Rest assured it won't be. I'm far too shallow. Instead it will be almost entirely chocolate related.

Just as Christmas has long since had its message about our saviour's birth diluted by a wave of consumerism, Easter is now far less about sacrifice, death and resurrection and far more about extravagantly priced novelty eggs shaped out of chocolate.

And just as December 25 plays out in a similar way in households across the nation – early wake-up call from over-excited children, manic unwrapping of gifts, flurry of activity to prepare lunch, quality snooze in front of the telly and the Queen's speech – Easter has its own timetable, too.

For example, in my home, the morning of Easter Sunday is spent trying not to demolish a small mountain of chocolate my wife and children have kindly given me. I normally fail quite miserably. After all, chocolate is one of God's great gifts – sugary goodness sent to reach the parts other confectionery just can't.

Plus it would surely be rude not to enjoy at least some of it with my morning cuppa before

actually getting out of bed. And, hey, why have breakfast when there's a chocolate egg to be had?

Not entirely surprisingly, after a morning of gorging myself, the afternoon is spent regretting every sorry mouthful.

My children tend to follow suit. But given the appalling example I set, I can only make basic disapproving noises and issue half-hearted warnings.

Only by teatime, almost inevitably, someone will have overdosed on chocolate and I will be comforting them because they feel sick to their stomach. But worshipping the porcelain god in the bathroom is, I have always felt, something of a rite of passage. Get the practice in now, after stuffing away too much chocolate, and you will at least know the best position to assume when you hit your late teens and find yourself reacting badly to one too many cans of cheap lager.

But this year is going to be different. Because last summer I was diagnosed as diabetic. And the one thing diabetics should

not spend a couple of solid hours doing on Easter Sunday (or any Sunday for that matter) is stuff themselves silly on anything packed with sugar.

I'm not going to pretend for a moment that not one mouthful of sweet, sweet chocolate goodness will not pass my lips. I'm not a saint and, after all, it would be rude on this most religious of days to reject God's great gift completely. But I really do have to be careful. Sticking my snout in a trough of eggs is going to have to be avoided at all costs. No-one, I assure you, will feel that pain more than me.

Which is perhaps a little ironic. Because when I was young, I used to give up chocolate as a nod towards Lent. And Lent, of course, is the time leading up to the traditional chocolate chow-down. So perhaps I should use this opportunity to see if I can rediscover the true meaning of Easter. Because Easter Sunday is actually quite an interesting day – aside from its obvious religious overtones. For starters,

most supermarkets and garden centres will be shut due to trading laws. So I can spend even longer dwelling on the story behind Easter. Obviously, my first port of call was Google, the online bible for so many in this day and age. I was able to refresh my memory of the origins of Lent. It's not like I was completely ignorant, but it did no harm to read of Jesus's jaunt in the desert for 40 days of being holier than thou.

Then I discovered purple is big during Lent (which has now ended). Christians see it as the colour of mourning, so it is linked to Jesus's death. And, rather conveniently, royalty – so celebrating His return as king, too.

Me? Well, I will keep the spirit of Lent alive a little longer. I will abstain from chocolate. And to acknowledge the significance of purple, I will listen, in its entirety, to Purple Rain by Prince. Easter Day is sounding better already ...

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These proud 'patriots'

So Mr Hadlow is proud to be British (Letters, last week). I think most people love their country, but that does not mean flying flags and counting the number of battles you commemorate.

What's the difference between a 65th anniversary and a 17th or 47th anniversary? Britain's big Remembrance Day comes in November and covers all battles and all the terrible wars since 1914. Mr Hadlow uses his theme to attack more temperate patriots in a very intemperate way. To say that the Conservative party wants the UK to be a province of Europe is piffle.

And Europe between the wars did not fall into successive dictatorships. Some countries fell into that mire, but there are historical reasons for this.

Mr Hadlow himself might be tempted to vote in some evil politician if his currency collapsed, as it did in Germany.

And he might remember that in the Great War, English counties were not flattened as huge armies slaughtered each other. It was France which suffered. Millions died in the two world wars and we should aim to see that this never happens again.

Surely the Government has enough on its plate – we all have – without being picky about what anniversaries we choose to wave flags on. A little private prayer would not go amiss.

Ms Green's letter follows the same argument. She tells us she was born in 1943 and proceeds to give us a list of all the horrors of war. I was born exactly 20 years earlier, so was in the forces from 1942.

We all know war is terrible – dead people, maimed people, bereaved people. What this has to do with commemorating individual days on spurious anniversaries beats me.

Armistice Day is Britain's Remembrance Day. All other individual events in ghastly wars should be remembered privately. And we should pray for the dead of all nations.

Frank Mitch, Sittingbourne

Let down by Leas lift threat

Once again, an asset to tourism in a deprived area of Kent is under threat.

Much is being done to improve the image of Folkestone and Dover, but it seems bold steps forward are being followed by more steps back.

The Leas water-powered railway cliff lift, a unique piece of Victorian heritage, is now under threat. Closure has been proposed by Shepway council, with the probability that it will be allowed to rust away and ultimately be removed.

The people of Folkestone must unite and save this unique attraction. To the aged, infirm and unfit, the cliff lift is so

convenient and much more pleasant than the long flights of steps down the cliff face. Ramsgate has its marina, Margate the Turner Contemporary – eventually – and hopefully a reborn Dreamland

Folkestone has the Lower Leas Garden, the Leas Cliff Hall, a leisure complex, a new shopping centre – and a unique, historic, water-powered cliff railway.

Do we hear the powers that be shouting about these assets from the rooftops? And are they likely to do so? What do you think? Once again, a local council is taking the easy option.

John Gamet, Keston

Caught and bowled

Martin Frey is at it again, spouting forth his views on education. But I did not, among the bile, find any reference to one reason for the grammar schools having problems: the Greenwich ruling, which we, in Bexley, were clobbered with in the first place.

Perhaps it is not important to his campaign to eliminate the 11-plus, but the schools themselves are wanting to change, because since 1997 ministers – aided and abetted by left-wing elements in the teaching unions – have progressively wrecked the curricula and the GCSE.

This is shown by the sheer number of schools – state and independent – that are using or seeking to use the IGCSE or

International Baccalaureate (IB) as a precursor to university. So the test will be even more crucial because, Mr Frey, to use a simile, not every cricketer will be a Freddie Flintoff, most will be average.

Doug Cheverst, Bexleyheath

A crumbling facade

I was fascinated, if somewhat concerned, to read that pop singer Michael Jackson is intending to stage 50 concerts at the O2 Arena between July and February next year (KoS, last week).

I expect this tortured genius to complete only a handful of these dates before the whole sorry misadventure is hurriedly disbanded. A long time has elapsed since

Jackson's heyday in the 1980s when he truly reigned supreme as the king of pop. Since the mid-1990s, Jackson has been plagued by all manner of ailments. His body is prone to illness and injury. In recent photographs, Jackson has resembled a person far older than his 50 years.

The troubled star's state of mind alone is enough to set warning lights flashing.

I hope I am mistaken, but I foresee Michael Jackson's comeback turning into the biggest disaster in rock history.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler, Canterbury

New Labour's raw Deal

The job centre in Deal costs the Government £37,000 a year to keep closed.

This is at a time when hundreds of people in the town are losing their jobs and looking for work. They cannot afford to travel to Dover to look for employment. This is a scandal and I support the bid to re-open the job centre. It would be the right thing to do and proper use of taxpayers' money. However, we also need to reflect for just a moment, about under whose watch it was closed in the first place.

Cllr Julie Rook, Dover District Council

Such divided loyalties

Hearing of a new political party formed to fight the forthcoming European elections, I have been waiting for it to break cover.

Come on, Libertas, stand up and be counted. Do we need a new political party of this nature? It sounds rather like "In Europe, not run by Europe".

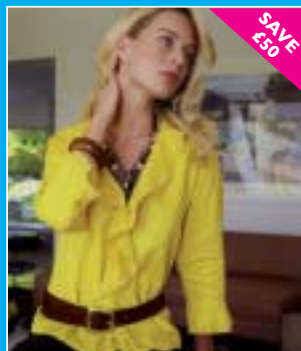
That's a very familiar phrase, and an impossible aim. The only achievement for such a party is to divide the vote. Perhaps that is its true purpose. It would also provide a home for David Cameron's MEPs. There is

Letters continued on page 44

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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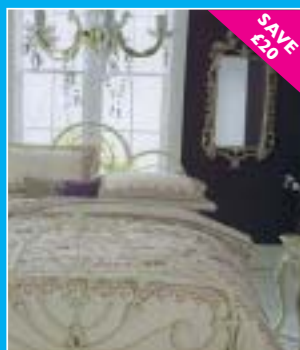
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BIRTHS

ARCHIBALD

Elsie-Mai Grace Archibald born on the 19th March 2009. Born a Star.

BARLOW

Rupert and Carrie-Anne Barlow are proud parents to Byron William Barlow born on 29th March 2009, weighing 7lb 11oz.

BELL

Sophie Anne born on 23rd March 2009 weighing 7lbs 10oz. Daughter to Robin and Stacey and beautiful sister to Justin.

BRENNAN

Joshua Joseph born on 29th March 2009, weighing 9lb 5oz. Son to Steve and Julie and brother to Shay Brennan of Staplehurst.

BURGESS

Welcome to the world, Robert Lawrence Burgess born to Steven and Melissa of Faversham on 30 March 2009. First Grandson for Francine and Richard Perry of Sacramento USA.

BUSBY

Zoe and Gordon celebrate the birth of their son Jake Peter Busby on 29th March 2009. Welcome little brother for Rachel.

CAREY

Callum Jack born on 4th April 2009, weighing 9lbs 3oz. Son to Michael and Amy in Westgate-on-Sea. Precious little brother to Lewis and Courtney.

COLES

Marianne Burrow and Greg Coles are pleased to announce the birth of beautiful baby Ava Grace

Coles born on 20th February 2009, weighing 6lb 5oz.

EASTWELL

Kayleigh and Paul celebrate the birth of their son Owen Brian Alfie on 28th March 2009.

HILL

Rachel and Greg of Sittingbourne celebrate the birth of their son Jack Alexander on 29th March 2009. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

IVANOVA

Olegs and Oksana of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Arianne. Born on 29th March 2009 at 11.03 in the morning.

KELLY

Millie May Kelly born on 26th March 2009 weighing 8lbs 8oz to Clair and Paul Kelly, sister to Nikitta Brandon Peter Saskia Bailey and Curtis.

LODER

Barnaby and Louise from Canterbury are delighted to announce the birth of their son Lloyd Jefferson Loder born on 4th April 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital Ashford. Brother for Jordana, Chantelle, Brandon and Lillian.

MARSDEN

Mark and Kathryn of Elham announce the birth of Daddys Little Princess, Katie Louise Marsden. Born on 3rd April 2009.

MAYS

Kizzie and Gary of Herne Bay are delighted and exhausted to announce the birth of

their beautiful baby daughter, Dixie Cheryl Mays! A sister for Jude.

MELHAM

Chelsea and Jamie celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Alisha Eve on 2nd April 2009 weighing 8lb 1oz

PITTOCK

Anya Fleur, born on 29th March 2009 weighing 6lbs 8oz. Daughter to David Pittock and Anne Jarrett.

SCHOFIELD

Finton James Nicholas Schofield born on 28th March 2009, weighing 9lb 7oz. Son to Jo and Nick Schofield in Ashford.

SPELLER

Laila Orhan and Michael Speller celebrate the birth of their daughter Maisie Kate Speller on 27th March 2009.

SPITERI

Harry Jack Thomas born on 30th March 2009, weighing 7lb 5oz to proud parents Paul and Netti

SPURLE

Sonia and Luke are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Isla Aimee Rae on 8th March 2009 weighing 9lb 5oz. A sister for Alisha and Kiah.

TANDY

Natalie and Jamie Tandy of Hawkinge celebrate the birth of their son Hugo John Tandy on the 3rd April 2009.

DEATHS

CHAMBERS

Peter Chambers passed away on 26th March 2009, aged 76.

Loving husband of Ann and father to David, Dawn, Wendy, Nigel and Christine and grandfather to Patrick, Tori, Aaron, Ryan and Thomas.

FINN

Alan Finn of Canterbury passed away on Monday 30th March 2009 with his family present. Any inquiries please contact Herne Bay Funeral Directors 94 Sea Street Herne Bay. He will be sadly missed.

INNES

Joan Kathleen May Innes 17th August 1928-31st March 2008, always in our hearts and minds and never forgotten. A loving mum, nan and great nan.

PAGE

Valeria Anne Page, formerly Gilbert, died peacefully at home on Sunday 5th April 2009 after 6 years fighting myeloma. A much loved wife, mum and nan. Enquiries to Pickard and Beale Funeral Directors of Maidstone on 01622 677155.

PEARCE

Michael Pearce died peacefully on March 31st 2009. Beloved husband and brother. Memorial service at Watlingtonbury Church 2pm on 14th April.

WOODBIDGE

Jenny Woodbridge nee Felts nee Tebbis, of Canterbury passed away 4th April. Funeral to be held at Barham on the 21st April, all welcome. Any other information, please ring Lyons of Canterbury.

Flaws in the system

Your story about new laws concerning the prosecution of foreign drivers and the swapping of information with overseas equivalents of our DVLA sounded very upbeat and of course the idea has some merit (KoS, last week).

But what happens when British drivers go abroad and we become the foreigners?

European countries may have had on-the-spot fines for many years, but this always involved a policeman stopping you.

Under a fully automated system, with European bureaucracies swapping information, an envelope will now drop through your letterbox stating you have broken the law and must now pay up.

It will be easy for money-generating organisations – such as parking and camera partnerships – to target anybody with a foreign number plate, knowing that no-one is going to travel hundreds of miles to a foreign court to argue their case in a foreign language and under a different system of justice. Other countries have systems where motoring fines go directly to local councils or even the police. With fines matching our £900 maximum, what a moneyspinner for the unscrupulous.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Things could get nasty

Recent reports that the Hunting Act is nothing more than a temporary ban on hunting are quite simply not true.

The Hunting Act is an important piece of animal welfare legislation which protects wild animals from needless suffering and to repeal it would be a step backwards for what is supposed to be a progressive, civilised society. I'm sure most KoS readers abhor fox hunting, but it is also worth reminding them that the Conservatives have promised a free vote on repeal if they win the next general election.

In doing so, the party would be going against the will of 59 per cent of its own voters and 75 per cent of the public who think hunting should remain illegal.

But, more importantly, it would also be leaving itself wide open to being labelled the 'nasty party' which supports bloodsports and animal cruelty. Is this the party we want to run our country?

John Cooper, Chairman, League Against Cruel Sports

Tory disdain for voters

I must comment on your story about Kent County Council's involvement with Icelandic banks (KoS, March 29).

The Audit Commission was absolutely right to state that "seven local authorities (including KCC) negligently deposited money after credit ratings for Icelandic banks were downgraded below acceptable levels". It also states that "a small group of

authorities has been negligent in their stewardship of public funds ... The consequence of this lack of caution has been the potential loss of large sums of public money".

For the Conservative leader of KCC to go on national television and say it was a "minor error" by a junior officer, who neglected to open the warning e-mail about the unacceptable credit ratings of the Icelandic banks, just beggars belief.

It shows absolute arrogance and disdain for taxpayers not to accept some responsibility for a further £8.3 million out of £50 million being placed on deposit with Icelandic banks when these urgent warnings had already been given. Hardly a "minor error".

Another example of the disdain for the people of Kent by the Tory administration at Maidstone is its insistence on ploughing huge levels of funding into Kent TV – £400,000 for this current year.

Labour proposed at the budget meeting to use this for adult education, but the amendment was defeated by the Tory majority. With the lion's share of council tax being levied by KCC, residents must be vigilant in our scrutiny of how our money is spent (or lost) by this administration. Rest assured, Labour will continue to do so.

Trevor Payne, chairman, Faversham and Swale East Labour Party

Flexible working rights

I want to make working parents aware that, as of April 6, they are able to request flexible working.

Employers are now required to give serious consideration to all requests for flexible working from parents of children up to and including the age of 16.

Parents tell me the need to work flexibly doesn't stop when children get to school age. I've spoken with Usdaw members who tell me the changes mean that they won't have to rely on childcare any more or struggle to cover holidays.

And parents-to-be will be better off too, with a new £190 grant that can be claimed from the 25th week of pregnancy.

Udaw, the shopworkers' union, has campaigned to the Government to introduce these new rights.

And I would encourage families to make use of them, so they will get the extra support they need to get on at work while carrying on the important work of bringing up their families. For more information visit www.usdaw.org.uk or www.direct.gov.uk.

John Hannett, general secretary, Usdaw

Cutting cancer risks

A recent survey revealed that many of us still do not know how our lifestyle affects our chances of developing cancer later in life. This is why I am writing to let people in

Letters continue on next page

Letters continued from page 43

one political party that has, for the last 16 years, been imparting the truth and consequences of our EU membership, but as every political party and every view should be heard, I say listen to Libertas but vote Ukip.

RM Higgins, Southborough

Isle's isolated elderly

It is to be welcomed that Thanet council has taken up the funding from central government to make available free swimming sessions to people under 16 and over 60.

In order to enable those who do not drive to make full use of this, would it not be appropriate to introduce a Sunday bus service for the outskirts of Westgate and other localities?

At present, elderly non-drivers from Westgate's Lymington and Linkfield areas who want to go to church, attend an event, visit somebody at home or in hospital or simply enjoy a sunny Sunday by the sea, face a walk of up to 20 minutes to reach a bus service. This has been the situation for long enough. If necessary, the joint transport board of Kent County Council and Thanet council should support a subsidy for this much-needed service.

It represents a mere trifle compared with the £50 million lost in Icelandic banks.

Cllr Tom King, Westgate-on-Sea

Ukip's national agenda

Thank you for reporting on the recent donation to Ukip by the now ex-Tory Stuart Wheeler (KoS, last week).

I welcome Mr Wheeler's donation to my party's European election fighting fund. As a small, grassroots party we are always suffering from a lack of money to publicise our views and manifesto.

I would take issue, however, with Mr Wheeler's view that we are only good to vote for at a European election.

We are so much more than a single issue party now. We have a full manifesto for both national and local issues and I would urge your readers to take a look at what we stand for.

Our main focus is obviously to amicably divorce ourselves from the EU and replace membership with a free-trade agreement and regain our sovereignty.

At the upcoming European elections, some voters will also have the opportunity to vote for Ukip local council candidates – there will be five of us standing in Maidstone.

Please don't take Mr Wheeler's view and only put one cross on the ballot paper for Ukip on the EU election only.

Send a clear message to the political classes and put a second cross against your local UKIP district council candidate also.

It is not a wasted vote.

John Botting, vice-chairman, Ukip, Maidstone



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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages 54-56

Kent know there is actually strong scientific evidence that people can make a real difference to their cancer risk by making relatively simple changes. In fact, the World Cancer Research Fund estimates that about a third of the most common cancers in the UK could be prevented through eating healthily, being physically active and maintaining a healthy weight.

If KOS Media readers want to find out more about how they can reduce their cancer risk, they can visit our website at www.wcrf-uk.org.

*Lisa Cooney, head of education,
World Cancer Research Fund*

Animal testing tragedy

MEPs have endorsed a series of measures that could set animal protection back decades.

Members of the European Parliament's agriculture committee voted through a number of amendments that seriously weaken proposals from the European Commission to regulate animal testing across Europe.

This is a tragedy. MEPs are claiming to protect laboratory animals while simultaneously slashing protections proposed by the European Commission, which they spent years developing in consultation with all parties.

Many people thought MEPs would strengthen these proposals and stand up to industry lobbyists. Instead, the commission proposals are being torn apart.

Some of the amendments voted through include allowing animals to suffer severe and prolonged pain, allowing almost unlimited re-use of animals, the ending of almost all licensing of experiments – making the majority of animal research a free-for-all and reducing the scientific justification needed to experiment on monkeys.

Even measures to prevent lab animal dealers from trapping wild monkeys have been slashed. This goes against public and

political will, that wherever possible, animal research should be replaced by advanced techniques. Eighty per cent of European citizens find primate research unacceptable.

In 2007, 55 per cent of MEPs voted for an early end to the use of great apes and wild-caught primates, and for a phasing out of all primate use. Animals and the public have been badly let down.

*Jan Creamer, Chief Executive,
National Anti-Vivisection Society*

Jenni's marathon plea

I will be running in the Flora London Marathon on April 26 to help raise money for the Children's Trust, the official charity of this year's event.

The trust, which is also marking its 25th anniversary, is aiming to raise in excess of £1 million in sponsorship by recruiting 1,000 runners to its team. To date, 600 have signed up, but more runners who have secured their own place in the marathon are needed to achieve the target.

To those who have not decided which charity to support, please join me and the trust's team in our bid to change the lives of disabled children and their families.

The Children's Trust provides specialist care for some of the UK's most severely disabled children, including those with an brain injury sustained as a result of an accident or serious illness. Each year more than 5,000 children suffer an acquired brain injury, but most do not have access to specialist help available at the Children's Trust. The money raised will enable the trust to help many more children and families by developing services in the community, including the recruitment and training of more therapists. Please join me and help make a difference to some special children.

Visit www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk or telephone 01737 365018 for details. Thank you.

*Jenni Falconer, TV presenter,
on behalf of the Children's Trust*

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Canterbury College



Architect lands top scholarship

AN ARCHITECT from Kent has won a place on a prestigious training scheme for conservationists.

Lucy Stewart, 29, from Sandwich, was one of just four people chosen by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) to be a scholar for this year.

The scheme will see the former Sir Roger Manwood's School pupil working with experts at important locations throughout the UK, the first of which will be St Michael's Mount in Cornwall this month.

SPAB secretary Philip Venning said: "The SPAB scholarship remains an absolutely unique opportunity in the conservation world."

"It has been very gratifying to see former scholars going on to take up significant roles and positions, spreading the message of the importance of sensitive repair."

Competition puts craft skills to test

BRICKWORK, carpentry and painting and decorating skills were put to the test as part of a UK-wide competition at West Kent College.

More than 20 students competed against each other in the SkilledUp construction challenge on Monday, March 30.

The winning entrants will now compete at next month's regional SkillBuild competition at South Kent College, the finals of which will be held in Lanarkshire, Scotland, in October.

West Kent College curriculum leader Nina Jabang said: "The competition is a great way of bringing together students from a range of construction areas and enabling them to put into practice the skills they have learned."

Students ready to help addicts kick the habit

Passing City and Guilds exam allows them to help users tackle their alcohol and substance problems

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

STUDENTS from across the county have completed a course that teaches them how to help people with drug and alcohol problems.

The 11-strong group are the second to have worked their way through the programme, which earns them a City and Guilds Level 3 qualification for trainee and volunteer substance misuse workers.

Worthwhile

Kent County Council's drug and alcohol action team launched the scheme as a pilot in 2007, working in partnership with the Folkestone-based South Kent College.

Cllr Mike Hill, cabinet member for community services at KCC, said the qualification was an extremely worthwhile one to possess.

He said: "Anyone who has overcome drug or alcohol dependency has not done so easily. It takes courage, effort and commitment."



QUALIFIED: Students can now help tackle alcohol and drug issues in their communities

"Working to help others in these situations can also be particularly challenging."

"This course brings together those with the right skills and determination to help tackle the issues of alcohol and drugs abuse in Kent's communities."

The course, which is not currently avail-

able anywhere else in the county, enables those who have suffered such problems to help train the class by sharing their experiences.

As part of the qualification, the students had to undertake either paid or voluntary work in the drug and alcohol services field.

Four of those on the course – Mick Collier, Amanda Herron, Nathan Motherwell and Judy Smith – live in Medway while a further three are from Maidstone. They are James Bushnell, Simon Millard and Paul Grannum.

Aimee Barnes and Joanne Briffitt both live short distances away from the college in Shepway, with Nick Bayco travelling from Gravesend and Steve Brooker from Sevenoaks.

One student said: "As learners we have bonded as a class and regularly drew on each other's strengths for help."

"The links we have made both personally and professionally will stay with us beyond this course."

According to KCC, most of the students on the course have now secured paid employment if they were previously volunteering, or are now actively applying for jobs for which they are now professionally qualified.

• The course currently runs on Tuesdays at South Kent College. No previous qualifications are necessary and there is additional funding for those on benefits. Call 0845 207 8220.



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Dover District Carers' Support

PROJECT WORKER

37.5 hrs per week (part-time may be considered for the right applicant)

Salary (NJC Scale 4): £17,574

One year fixed term (possibility to extend subject to longer-term funding)

The organisation provides support, advice and information to people over the age of 18 who care (unpaid) for a relative or friend. We are funded, in part, by Social Services and have contact with many other public and private sector bodies.

For this post we are looking for a sensitive, confident, versatile and articulate person who will champion the role of Carers. They will provide support and information on the phone or to Carers calling in at our newly opened Carers' Centre. This busy and demanding role will also include liaising with our many contacts to provide a quality service, as well as being involved in new projects. The work will be both office-based and involve regular travel to meetings and projects outside the office.

A full driving licence and your own transport are essential for this role.

For an application pack, please write to:

Tricia Cole, Manager, DDCS, 10 Victoria Road, Deal, Kent CT14 7AP

For further information email: sue@carers-doverdistrict.org Closing date: Friday 24 April 2009

Please note this is NOT a Careworker post.

Registered Charity No. 1097782

KOS Media, publisher of the award-winning Kent on Sunday, the Saturday Observer, and our midweek titles and associated websites, has a vacancy for a

Freelance sub-editor

We are currently looking for a freelance sub-editor for three days work a week. Candidates must have excellent QuarkXpress skills and be competent at using Adobe Photoshop.

You will be able to spot a typo at 100 paces and be able to write attention-grabbing headlines.

- To apply, send a CV and covering letter to: Dave Hobday, Head of Subbing or email dave.hobday@kosmedia.co.uk.



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If that sounds like your kind of company, then you could help us build the future of our new contact centre at the former Eurotunnel offices just off the M20 in Cheriton. There's full training, not to mention ongoing support every step of the way. So while contact centre experience would be ideal, it's certainly not essential if you've excellent communication skills and a helpful personality.

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For our customers, you'll be the friendly individual at the end of the phone who listens to their needs and meets their requirements promptly and accurately. You'll also keep a sharp eye open for sales opportunities with every call. Ref: SG292/KOS.

Sales Agents

You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure. But above all, you must share our commitment to delivering the best service to each and every customer. Ref: SG291/KOS.

To apply, please send your application form including the appropriate reference number to Kerry Harrison, HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from www.saga.co.uk

Closing date: 30 April 2009.

www.directchoice.com



Community Drug Workers

£21,306 – £27,573 + ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,095
EAST/WEST KENT AND MEDWAY

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service.

Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable, along with a qualification to diploma level in a relevant area – nursing, counselling or social work for example. As for your future, there is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk. Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote ref: 560.

Closing date: 1 May 2009.

Interview date: 15 May 2009 in Maidstone.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



Swale Marina Clubhouse @ Conyer Require:

BAR STAFF

Bar work experience and food hygiene certificate preferable.
Shifts/hours to suit Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon.

COOK

Food hygiene certificate essential.
Shifts/hours: Fri - Evening, Sat - Lunch, Sat - Evening, Sun - Lunch.
Please contact the Marina Office on 01795 521562
Or e-mail enquiries swale.marina@virgin.net



RESTAURANT MANAGER

The opportunity has arisen for an experienced and highly motivated Restaurant Manager to work in Kent's premier Fish and Seafood Restaurant. Our ideal candidate must have exacting standards with ability to interact with guests. A willingness to train and develop staff and a good knowledge of wine and beverage service is essential.

Please send your CV with covering letter to
Mr Stephen Taylor, General Manager at
Eastwell Manor to: stephentaylor@eastwellmanor.co.uk
Eastwell Park, Boughton Lees, Ashford, Kent TN25 4HR
Tel: 01233 213000 Fax: 01233 635530
www.eastwellmanor.co.uk
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Our industry is going through change but KOS Media's successful mix of newspapers, websites and online TV offers news journalists a unique challenge.

If you think you would like to be part of a growing media company and you are experienced, able to write great copy, confident enough to take responsibility and also come up with great ideas, I'd like to hear from you.

I have freelance and contract positions which I know will suit a lot of good journalists in this county.



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Contact: Gary Wright,
Midweek Group Editor
on 01303 817032
or email gary.wright@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS Media is a highly successful newspaper publisher within Kent, that has received many awards from the newspaper industry for the innovative Kent on Sunday, Kent on Saturday and numerous mid-week newspapers.

We now have vacancies for experienced

Mac Operators

We are looking for experienced, confident, self-motivated team players who wish to gain experience within the industry to further their career.

The individual must have relevant Mac experience including knowledge of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator. The ability to touch-type would be advantageous.

The candidate should be able to work under pressure, meet strict deadlines and be eager to work within a team environment to ensure the smooth operation of our fast-paced production department. Hours will be variable.

To apply, send a CV and covering letter to:

Personnel
KOS Media
Apple Barn
Hythe Road
Smeeth
Kent TN25 6SR

or email: personnel@kosmedia.co.uk



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BRANCH MANAGEMENT STAFF

Kent and East Sussex area.

Salary negotiable dependant on experience

We are Kent's largest independent motor factor with 6 branches across the South East with 25 years experience of supplying car parts to garages and workshops. We are shortly looking to expand our branch network and are therefore looking to employ branch management staff in the Kent and East Sussex area.

As a member of our branch management team, you will be responsible for managing all aspects of a branch, such as overseeing all branch staff, ensuring customer needs are met effectively and efficiently by both delivery and counter sales, and achieving set targets for profit and sales. Previous experience of managing a motor factor branch is essential. Candidates will need to prove they have extensive management experience within the motor factor trade.

All correspondence will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

To apply, please forward your CV
to humanresources@cmf.co.uk or alternatively
call Peta Budd on 0208 308 6812.

Closing date for applications: 28th April 2009

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Six Month Contract

Salary dependant on experience.

Clive Emson Auctioneers has a vacancy for a Full-time Accounts Clerk to join our Maidstone Office.

Duties: All aspects of the running of our busy Accounts Department including data inputting, daily management of invoices, payroll, clients account, monthly bank reconciliations and all other duties up to trial balance level.

Sage Line 50 experience essential.

AAT qualification or equivalent desirable.

Apply in writing, with CV, to: Miss Andrea Bennett, Clive Emson Auctioneers, Rocky Hill, London Road, Maidstone, ME16 8PY
or email: andrea@cliveemson.co.uk
Closing Date: Friday, 24 April 2009

Clive Emson
LAND AND PROPERTY AUCTIONEERS

PARTS ASSISTANT

Baileys Nissan require a Parts Assistant for busy parts department. Parts experience is essential. Nissan knowledge an advantage. Clean driving license required.

Apply with CV to

Mr G Tong
Baileys Nissan
Westminster Road
Vauxhall Ind. Estate
Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YY
01227 766777
email: guy.tong@baileysnissan.co.uk



RECEPTIONIST

MotorSport Vision, the UK's largest motor racing circuit operator owning Brands Hatch, Cadwell Park, Oulton Park, Snetterton and Bedford Autodrome, is currently seeking an efficient, customer focused Receptionist to join the team at Brands Hatch.

The successful candidate will be responsible for welcoming all visitors to the Brands Hatch Circuit and answering all incoming calls, ensuring they are dealt with professionally and politely at all times. In addition they will provide the venue with administrative support, as directed by the Group Head of Sales and Marketing.

Highly organised, they will have the ability to work under their own initiative, have a smart, professional appearance and a friendly outgoing manner.

A minimum of two good A-levels or equivalent are required, along with an excellent telephone manner, written and spoken English and a working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel. Knowledge of and enthusiasm for motorsport would be an advantage.

Please apply in writing, including salary expectations, notice period and current CV, to:

Katie Dickens, Group Human Resources Officer,
MotorSport Vision Limited, Brands Hatch Circuit, Fawkham, Longfield, Kent DA3 8NG
or email katie.dickens@motorsportvision.co.uk



Brands Hatch

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As a Specialist Technology College we are seeking to appoint a well-qualified, enthusiastic and energetic teacher to join this successful and developing department that is expanding into KS5 with Food Technology and Textiles. Ability to teach other design and technology subjects would be an advantage.

For further information please contact the Headteacher's P.A. Mrs. Theisen on telephone number 01622 689422 or email headteacher@st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk

You can also visit our website to download an application form and job description at www.st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk
Closing date, Tuesday 21st April 2009 at 4pm – interviews will take place shortly afterwards.

We are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults



St Simon Stock Catholic School
Oakwood Park, Whitstable, Kent, ME18 6EP

SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNICIAN DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN

Science Laboratory Technician, 35 hours per week for 38 weeks a year (term time only).

Design & Technology Technician, part-time for 38 weeks a year (term time only).

Both salaries dependent on experience - Band 3 Kent Scheme Salaries

For further information please contact the Headteacher's P.A. Mrs. Theisen on telephone number 01622 689422 or email headteacher@st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk

You can also visit our website to download an application form and job description at www.st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk

Closing date, Friday 24th April 2009 at 2pm - interviews will take place shortly afterwards.

We are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults



Intervenor for Children and Young People with Multisensory Impairment/Deafblind

Starting salary £23,053, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,421 pro rata

3 x 25 hours per week

Fixed Term posts until 31st March 2011

Countywide

Work bases for each post are:

West Kent: Kings Hill, West Malling
Mid Kent: Kroner House, Ashford
East Kent: Clover House, Whitstable

This is an exciting initiative under Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families.

This is an opportunity for practitioners experienced in working with children and young people with sensory impairment to work as intervenors with deafblind children from birth to 19 years of age.

Also working with families to develop and support individual communication modes, you will support children and young people with Multisensory Impairment (MSI)/deafblind to participate in extended services and community activities and so to enable families to experience "short breaks".

Working within the Specialist Teaching Service and in liaison with Disabled Children's Service, you will enskill service providers to communicate effectively with children and young people with MSI/deafblind and to support smooth transitions.

You should hold a suitable qualification within this field at NVQ level 3 or equivalent coupled with an additional qualification in MSI/deafblind, sign language, Braille, mobility or guide-communicator.

The 25 hours per week will be delivered flexibly to meet the needs of children, young people and their families as the post is likely to require some work in the evenings and/or weekends.

The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day to meet the requirements of the service is essential.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference: CFE/09/0113.

Closing date: Midday, 21st April 2009.



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Health Visitor X 2 (*) (⚡)

Ref: 767-ECL1021

Band 6: £24,831 - £33,436 per annum (pro rata for part time)

Herne Bay & Whitstable, Kent

Full Time: 37.5 Hours per week
(30 Hours would be considered)

We are looking for two dynamic, innovative, self-motivated, qualified Health Visitors to work in Herne Bay and Whitstable. You will be joining teams supported by skill mix and working towards integration with school nursing to provide a seamless service to children and families in our locality. We work within the Eastern and Coastal Kent Framework for Health Visiting, providing a progressive universal service.

If you are pro-active and keen to develop the Public Health Agenda and are also interested in developing services which respond to the needs of the community, then we would love to hear from you.

Excellent communication skills, a flexible, forward thinking approach and commitment to team working are crucial.

It is recommended that you phone the teams for an informal discussion and they will be very happy to facilitate an informal visit. Please contact the Whitstable Team on 01227 378558, the Herne Bay team on 01227 594773 or Susan Gough, Locality Clinical Co-ordinator on 01843 855487.

Some re-location expenses may be agreed as per our Relocation Policy.

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

(*) Employment in this post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau

(⚡) Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

For further information and to apply, please visit

www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk

Completed applications by: 17 April 2009.

Interviews to be held on: 6 May 2009 (Provisionally)

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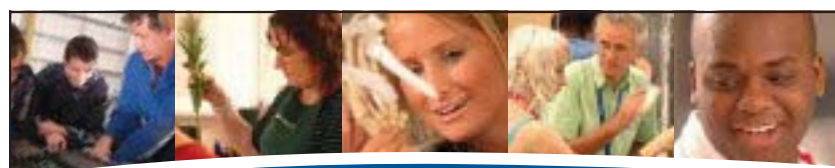
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Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Head of Faculty Arts, Media and Publishing 09/11

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £42,128 per annum

Manager Health & Social Care 06/110

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum

Temporary Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Conservation 09/04

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed 12 months.

Supply Registered Dental Nurse or Registered Hygienist required to lecturer on a range of courses S/RDN

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturer required in the following areas:

Floristry

Security

S/FL

S/SEC

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Examinations Coordinator ECO

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,963 per annum

Supply NVQ Assessors required in the following areas:

Early Years

Playwork

Cleaning Support (Cleaning and Domestic)

Security

S/NVQ/EY

S/NVQ/PW

S/NVQ/CS

S/NVQ/SEC

Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturers within the Faculty of Engineering and Construction S/EC

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

We run a wide range of courses from basic to advanced level and we are looking for professionals from the various trades to join our team of part-time staff. You will need to have suitable qualifications – such as C&G, BTEC, IMI, CITB or similar and current experience in one of the areas. We offer a teacher training programme to suitable applicants who wish to join us in providing this important service to the local community.

- Mechanical Engineering
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- Vehicle electrics
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- Carpentry
- Electrical installation
- Vehicle painting
- Vehicle body work
- Plumbing
- Gas fitting
- Key Skills
- Mathematics
- ICT
- Any other related trade

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 noon

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
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Career Opportunities

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer



Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Supply Lecturer Administration

Ref: S/SH/Admin

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 noon.

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
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- Close to Town Centre



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Economic Development Officer

Chief Executive's Department ■ Salary range £20,517 to £25,719 pa ■ Permanent position ■ 37 hours per week

We are looking for an individual to manage projects that promote and support local economic development.

You will demonstrate an understanding of economic development issues and have excellent communication skills to develop relationships within the organisation and with partners including the business community.

Please quote job reference: 1814

Transmanche Enterprise Network Project Officer

Chief Executive's Department ■ Salary range £25,729 to £28,191 pa pro rata 22.5 hours per week ■ Three year fixed term contract

Are you self-motivated, excellent at project management and partnership development and experienced in European funding?

This exciting role involves supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship, the development of micro businesses and encouraging cross border trading. French or Flemish language skills would be an advantage and the ability to travel and work flexible hours are required.

Please quote job reference: 1815

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 12 noon 17 April 2009

Interviews and assessment process will take place on:

Job reference 1814: 29 April 2009 Job reference 1815: 30 April 2009

We prefer applications on-line. For further details of these positions and all our latest opportunities and to apply on-line, visit our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/jobs or e-mail jobs@canterbury.gov.uk If you are unable to access the internet, telephone 01227 862 072 (24 hour answerphone).

We can supply application packs in Braille or large print format if required

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To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

DELCE JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Tideway, Rochester, Kent Telephone 01634 845242

MIDDAY MEALS SUPERVISOR

An opportunity has arisen for a responsible and reliable person to join Delce Junior School as a Midday Meals Supervisor. The post involves the supervision of pupils during the lunch break ensuring their safety and welfare, that good standards of behaviour are observed and that meals are taken in an orderly manner.

The contracted hours are 5 hours 50 minutes per week, term time only. The rate of pay is currently £6.20 per hour.

Application forms and Job Descriptions may be collected from the school office between 9.00am and 4.00pm, alternatively, they can be mailed upon receipt of an A4 S.A.E. (48p postage is required).

Offers of appointment will only be made subject to a clear Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure and satisfactory references.

The closing date for the receipt of applications in respect of this post is Friday 24th April 2009

Recycling Advisors/ Supervisors

required to join our exciting Public Engagement Team, working across Kent on behalf of the Kent Waste Partnership to promote recycling to residents. Advisors: £7.00 p/h + expenses. Supervisors: £8.25 p/h + expenses. All positions full time (max 40 hours per week) for 11 weeks. Must be able to work evenings and weekends. Start date 08/05/09.

For an application form contact **Azim Khan** at **M-E-L Research** on **0121 604 4664** or email **azim.khan@m-e-l.co.uk**



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Accountancy**Accounts Clerk****Maidstone**

Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 24 April 2009

Six month contract, Salary dependant on experience. Clive Emson Auctioneers has a vacancy for a full time Accounts Clerk to join our Maidstone office. Duties: All aspects of the running of our busy Accounts department including data inputting, daily management of invoices, payroll, clients account, monthly bank reconciliations and all other duties up to trial balance level. Sage Line 50 experience essential. AAT qualification or equivalent desirable. Apply in writing, with CV to: Miss Andrea Bennett, Clive Emson Auctioneers, Rocky Hill, London Road, Maidstone, ME16 8PY or email andrea@cliveemson.co.uk

To apply/more information:
Clive Emson Auctioneers
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email andrea@cliveemson.co.uk

RECEPTIONIST**Longfield**

Salary: TBA
MotorSport Vision, the UK's largest motor racing circuit operator owning Brands Hatch, Cadwell Park, Oulton Park, Snetterton and Bedford Autodrome, is currently seeking an efficient, customer focused Receptionist to join the team at Brands Hatch. The successful candidate will be responsible for welcoming all visitors to the Brands Hatch Circuit and answering all incoming calls, ensuring they are dealt with professionally and politely at all times. In addition they will provide the venue with administrative support, as directed by the Group Head of Sales and Marketing. Highly organised, they will have the ability to work under their own initiative, have a smart, professional appearance and a friendly outgoing manner. A minimum of two good A-levels or equivalent are required, along with an excellent telephone manner, written and spoken English and a sound working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel. Knowledge of and enthusiasm for motorsport would be an advantage. Please apply in writing, including salary expectations, notice period and current CV, to: Katie Dickens Group Human Resources Officer MotorSport Vision Limited Brands Hatch Circuit, Fawkham, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8NG or email katie.dickens@motorsportvision.co.uk.

To apply/more information:

MotorSport Vision Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email katie.dickens@motorsportvision.co.uk

Catering, Hospitality**Cook****Isle of Sheppey**

Salary: TBA
Food hygiene certificate essential. Shifts/hours: Fri - Evening, Sat - Lunch, Sun - Lunch. Please contact the Marina Office on 01795 521562 or email enquiries to swale.marina@virgin.net

To apply/more information:
Swale Marina Services Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 521562
Email swale.marina@virgin.net

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors**Supply Lecturers within the Faculty of Engineering and Construction****Canterbury**

Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
We run a wide range of courses from basic to advanced level and we are looking for professionals from the various trades to join our team of part-time staff. You will need to have suitable qualifications - such as C&G, BTEC, IMI, CITB or similar and current experience in one of the areas. We offer a teacher training programme to suitable applicants who wish to join us providing this important service to the local community. Mechanical Engineering Bench Fitting Turning and milling CAD Welding Motor Vehicles mechanics Vehicle parts Vehicle electricals Brickwork Carpentry Electrical installation Vehicle painting Vehicle body work Plumbing Gas fitting Key Skills Mathematics ICT Any other related trade. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/EC
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Quantity Surveyor**Ramsgate****Salary: TBA**

All candidates must be educated to HND/HNC Building Studies or BSC Quantity Surveying or equivalent and come from an Engineering/Construction background with a proven track record in Quantity Surveying. The successful applicants must be commercially aware in dealing with sub-contract payments, interim monthly accounts, re-measurement, controlling contracts to budgetary requirements and final accounting. Please apply in writing to Mr N Piper, Piper Double Glazing Ltd, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate Kent CT12 6PP

To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725 128661
Email ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Programme Area Leader
Medway
Salary: £30,312 - £35,000
Closing Date: 19th April 2009
The Royal School of Military Engineering, Brompton Barracks, Chatham Candidates should possess relevant trade qualifications and experience in Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (ACR) or Heating and Plumbing (H&P) and be able to demonstrate supervisory skills and experience, ideally within these trade areas. Candidates will be required to undertake teaching duties in these trade disciplines, if required to maintain course continuity. Evidence of formal teaching experience or qualifications is not critical as candidates will be provided with appropriate training and supported to achieve appropriate teaching qualifications. You will supervise a number of trade instructors. MKC Training Services Limited is responsible for delivering the trade, technical and professional training to the Royal Engineers at Chatham and has recently been awarded a 30 year contract. These positions

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Education, Teacher, School**Faculty Manager****Medway**

Salary: c£40k plus Performance Related Pay
Closing Date: 19th April 2009
The Royal School of Military Engineering, Brompton Barracks, Chatham Candidates should have management experience and be well organised and disciplined. Reporting to the Head of Division you will be responsible for the efficient "day to day" operation of the faculty with a number of Programme Area Leaders, covering a wide range of engineering trade disciplines, reporting to you. Leadership, Influence and Decision Making are critical skills that a candidate will be able to evidence. MKC Training Services Limited is responsible for delivering the trade, technical and professional training to the Royal Engineers at Chatham and has recently been awarded a 30 year contract. These positions

are therefore permanent full time posts with the opportunity for the right candidates to join an exciting organisation making a real difference to the British Army. If this looks like the right career move for you, contact Ken Pullan on 07725128661 for an informal discussion or forward a copy of your CV to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk. Job descriptions for these posts are available on www.midkent.ac.uk (follow RSME vacancies).

To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725 128661
Email ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Programme Area Leader**Medway**

Salary: £30,312 - £35,000
Closing Date: 19th April 2009
The Royal School of Military Engineering, Brompton Barracks, Chatham Candidates should possess relevant trade qualifications and experience in Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (ACR) or Heating and Plumbing (H&P) and be able to demonstrate supervisory skills and experience, ideally within these trade areas. Candidates will be required to undertake teaching duties in these trade disciplines, if required to maintain course continuity. Evidence of formal teaching experience or qualifications is not critical as candidates will be provided with appropriate training and supported to achieve appropriate teaching qualifications. You will supervise a number of trade instructors. MKC Training Services Limited is responsible for delivering the trade, technical and professional training to the Royal Engineers at Chatham and has recently been awarded a 30 year contract. These positions

are therefore permanent full time posts with the opportunity for the right candidates to join an exciting organisation making a real difference to the British Army. If this looks like the right career move for you, contact Ken Pullan on 07725128661 for an informal discussion or forward a copy of your CV to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk. Job descriptions for these posts are available on www.midkent.ac.uk (follow RSME vacancies).

To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725 128661
Email ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Key Stage 1**Dover****Salary: TBA**

Closing Date: 24th April 2009
To cover maternity leave from September 2009 in a very popular, small, supportive and friendly C of E village school. Mixed year group class. Would suit NQT or experienced teacher who is well motivated and has knowledge of creative curriculum. If you are interested in this position, please call the school office (01304 822665) to book an appointment to view the school and receive an application pack. Date of interview - 5th May 2009.

To apply/more information:
Temple Ewell CEP School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 822665
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Lecturer Administration**Isle of Sheppey**

Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Various Hours available. Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus/Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack to apply, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/SH/Admin
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Head of Faculty Arts, Media and Publishing**Canterbury**

Salary: £42,128 pa
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff

benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/11
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Manager Health and Social Care**Canterbury**

Salary: £33,858 PA
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 06/110
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Temporary Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Conservation**Canterbury**

Salary: £33,858 PA
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed 12 months. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation

as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/04
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

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01303 817040

Supply Registered Dental Nurse of Registered Hygienist**Canterbury**

Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Required to lecturer on a range of courses. Various hours. Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/RDN
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Lecturer - Floristry**Canterbury**

Salary: £18,387 to £26,363 Pro Rata
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Various hours available
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/FL
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Lecturer - Security**Canterbury**

Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Various hours available
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or



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To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/SEC
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Exams Coordinator

Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: ECO
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply NVQ Assesors - Early Years

Canterbury
Salary: £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Various hours available
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/NVQ/EY
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply NVQ Assesors - Playwork

Canterbury
Salary: £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Various hours available
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly

800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/NVQ/PW
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply NVQ Assesors - Cleaning and Domestic

Canterbury
Salary: £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Various hours available
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/NVQ/CS
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply NVQ Assesors - Security

Canterbury
Salary: £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 20th April 2009 at 12 Noon
Various hours available
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Staff benefits include: • Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme • Proximity to Main Bus & Train stations • Close to City Centre • Sports Hall and Gym • Generous Holiday Allowance • Staff Discount Scheme. For an application pack, please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answer phone) quoting the post reference.

To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/NVQ/SEC
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Maidstone
Salary: Band 3 Kent Scheme
Closing Date: Friday 24 April 2009
Science Laboratory Technician, 35 hours per week for 38 weeks a year (term time only). For further information please contact the Headteacher's P.A. Mrs. Theisen on telephone number 01622 689422 or email headteacher@st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk. You can also visit our website to download an application form and job description at www.st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk. Interviews will take place shortly afterwards. We are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

To apply/more information:
St Simon Stock Catholic School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01662 689422
Email headteacher@st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk

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DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN

Maidstone
Salary: Band 3 Kent Scheme
Closing Date: Friday 24 April 2009 @ 2pm
Design & Technology Technician, part-time for 38 weeks a year (term time only). For further information please contact the Headteacher's P.A. Mrs. Theisen on telephone number 01622 689422 or email headteacher@st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk. You can also visit our website to download an application form and job description at www.st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk. Closing date, Friday 24th April 2009 at 2pm - interviews will take place shortly afterwards. We are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

To apply/more information:
St Simon Stock Catholic School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 689422
Email headteacher@st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk

Teacher of Food Technology / Textiles - MPS

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Tuesday 21st April 2009 at 4pm
As a Specialist Technology College we are seeking to appoint a well-qualified, enthusiastic and energetic teacher to join this successful and developing department that is expanding into KS5 with Food Technology and Textiles. Ability to teach other design and technology subjects would be an advantage. For further information please contact the Headteacher's P.A. Mrs. Theisen on telephone number 01622 689422 or email headteacher@st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk. You can also visit our website to download an application form and job description at [\[stock.kent.sch.uk\]\(http://www.st-simon-stock.kent.sch.uk\). Interviews will take place shortly afterwards. We are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.](http://www.st-simon-</p>
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Personal Tutor

Medway
Salary: £20,368 - £26,255 per annum/pro rata
Closing Date: Friday 17 April 2009
We currently have a number of opportunities for full-time and part-time Personal Tutors. As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification. When applying, please state clearly your preferred role. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer.

To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0316
Tel: 01634 884402
Email
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Midday Meals Supervisor

Rochester
Salary: £6.20 per hour
Closing Date: Friday 24 April 2009

An opportunity has arisen for a responsible and reliable person to join Delce Junior School as a Midday Meals Supervisor. The post involves the supervision of pupils during the lunch break ensuring their safety and welfare, that good standards of behaviour are observed and that meals are taken in an orderly manner. The contracted hours are 5 hours 50 minutes per week, term time only. The rate of pay is currently £6.20 per hour. Application forms and Job Descriptions may be collected from the school office between 9.00am and 4.00pm, alternatively, they can be mailed upon receipt of an A4 S.A.E. (48p postage is required) Offers of appointment will only be made subject to a clear Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure and satisfactory references. The closing date for the receipt of applications in respect of this post is Friday 24th April 2009.

To apply/more information:
Delce Junior School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 845242
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Experienced Wood Machinist

Ashford
Salary: TBA
The Old Sawmills Furniture Co Ltd, Betherden Requires a very experienced Wood Machinist Using various Panel Saws, Overhead Routers etc. Hours:

7:30am-5:30pm. To apply call 01233 822417 or email: info@oldsawmills.com.
To apply/more information:
Old Sawmills Furniture Company Ltd (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 822417
Email info@oldsawmills.com

Insurance, Banking, Finance

Revenues Manager

Folkestone
Salary: £41,031 pa
Closing Date: Friday 1 May 2009
Salary up to £41,031 plus cash alternative £3,900 A highly talented and enthusiastic Revenues professional to lead their Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debt processing and recovery sections. For more details and an application pack download at www.shepway.gov.uk, or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.

To apply/more information:
Shepway District Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 853481
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk

Senior Corporate Debt Officer

Folkestone
Salary: £30,210 pa
Closing Date: Friday 1 May 2009
An experienced Corporate Debt Officer to develop a corporate debt unit dealing with the collection of both Housing Benefit Overpayments and Sundry Debts. For more details and an application pack download www.shepway.gov.uk or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk Alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.

To apply/more information:
Shepway District Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 853481
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Bar Staff

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
Bar work experience and food hygiene certificate preferable. Shifts/hours to suit Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon. Please contact the Marina Office on 01795 521562 or e-mail enquiries swale.marina@virgin.net.
To apply/more information:
Swale Marina Services Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 521562
Email swale.marina@virgin.net

Management, Senior Positions

BRANCH MANAGEMENT STAFF

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 28th April 2009
Kent and East Sussex area. Salary negotiable dependant on experience. We are Kent's largest independent motor factor with 6 branches across the South East with 25 years experience of supplying car parts to garages and

workshops. We are shortly looking to expand our branch network and are therefore looking to employ branch management staff in the Kent and East Sussex area. As a member of our branch management team, you will be responsible for managing all aspects of a branch, such as overseeing all branch staff, ensuring customer needs are met effectively and efficiently by both delivery and counter sales, and achieving set targets for profit and sales. Previous experience of managing a motor factor branch is essential. Candidates will need to prove they have extensive management experience within the motor factor trade. All correspondence will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. To apply, please forward your CV to humanresources@scmf.co.uk or alternatively call Peta Budd on 0208 308 6812.

To apply/more information:
SC Motor Factors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 3086812
Email
humanresources@scmf.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

PARTS ASSISTANT

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: TBA
Parts Assistant for busy parts department. Parts experience is essential. Nissan knowledge an advantage. Clean driving license required.
To apply/more information:
Guy Tong
Baileys Nissan
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 766777
Email
guy.tong@baileysnissan.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Community Carers

Kent
Salary: TBA
Fancy a change in career that is rewarding? All shifts required, especially evenings and weekends in Canterbury, Deal, Sandwich and Dover. Full training given, Competitive rates of pay with enhanced supplement paid for NVQ qualification. Uniform supplied and mileage allowance paid. Please contact Sharon or Leon for further details. For canterbury, Deal and Sandwich call 01227 712300. For dover call 01304 240424 or email us.
To apply/more information:
Sharon or Leon
Meridian Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 712300
Email meridianbury@aol.com

Support worker

Medway
Salary: TBA
Support worker required for four hours on a Thursday evening to support a young lady with learning disabilities in her own home in Teynham. Other positions may be available. Apply to Jenny 01634 715995.
To apply/more information:
Jenny
Carers' Relief Service
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 715995
Email
c.r.service@btconnect.com

Experienced Carer

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA

Keele House, Ramsgate Require an Experienced Carer with at least NVQ2 Full time, Shift work - alternative weekends. Please contact Margaret on 01843 591735.
To apply/more information:
Margaret
Keele House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 591735
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Intervenor for Children and Young People - West Kent

Maidstone
Salary: £23,053
Closing Date: Middy, 21st April 2009
With Multisensory Impairment/Deafblind Starting salary £23,053 with progression through contributed related pay to £26,421 pro rata. 25 hours per week Fixed term post until 31st March 2011. This is an exciting initiative under Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families. This is an opportunity for practitioners experienced in working with children and young people with sensory impairment to work as intervenors with deafblind children from birth to 19 years of age. Also working with families to develop and support individual communication modes, you will support children and young people with Multisensory Impairment (MSI) /deafblind to participate in extended services and community activities and so to enable families to experience "short breaks". Working within the Specialist Teaching Service and in liaison with Disabled Children's Service, you will enable service providers to communicate effectively with children and young people with MSI/deafblind and to support smooth transitions. You should hold a suitable qualification within this field at NVQ level 3, or equivalent coupled with an additional qualification in MSI/deafblind, sign language, Braille, mobility or guide-communicator. The 25 hours per week will be delivered flexibly to meet the needs of children, young people and their families as the post is likely to require some work in the evenings and/or weekends. The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day to meet the requirements of the service is essential. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247904. Please quote the reference.

To apply/more information:
Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref: CFE/09/0113
Tel: 0845 8247904
Email
recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

Intervenor for Children and Young People - Whitstable

Whitstable
Salary: £23,053 pro rata
Closing Date: Middy, 21st April 2009
With Multisensory Impairment/Deafblind Starting salary £23,053 with progression through contributed related pay to £26,421 pro rata. 25 hours per week Fixed term post until 31st March 2011. This is an exciting initiative under Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families. This is an opportunity for practitioners experienced in working with children and young people with sensory impairment to work as intervenors with deafblind children from birth to 19 years of age. Also working with families to develop and support individual communication modes, you will support children and young people with Multisensory Impairment (MSI) /deafblind to participate in extended services and community activities and so to enable families to experience "short breaks". Working within the Specialist Teaching Service and in liaison with Disabled Children's Service, you will

Intervenor for Children and Young People

Ashford
Salary: £23,053 pro rata

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enskill service providers to communicate effectively with children and young people with MSI/deafblind and to support smooth transitions. You should hold a suitable qualification within this field at NVQ level 3, or equivalent coupled with an additional qualification in MSI/deafblind, sign language, Braille, mobility or guide-communicator. The 25 hours per week will be delivered flexibly to meet the needs of children, young people and their families as the post is likely to require some work in the evenings and/or weekends. The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day to meet the requirements of the service is essential. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247904. Please quote the reference.

To apply/more information:
Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref: CFE/09/0113
Tel: 0845 8247904
Email
recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

Community Drug Workers

Kent
Salary: £21,306 - £27,573 pa
Closing Date: 1 May 2009
+ Essential car allowance of up to £1,095 East/West Kent and Medway KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. Could you help chaotic injecting drug users to stabilise their use and begin shaping better lifestyles? It is a big challenge that will see you work closely with medical staff as you deliver assessment and key worker support to people accessing the substitute prescribing service. Significant experience of working with individuals with drug related problems is desirable, along with a qualification to diploma level in a relevant area - nursing, counselling or social work for example. As for your future, there is the opportunity to make a huge impact on people's lives and help grow our services into the future working

as part of a multi-disciplinary team. Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote the reference.

To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)

Quoting Job Ref: 560
Tel: 01795 590635
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk

Other

THE POTENTIAL TO EARN LIKE A CEO WITH MORE FREEDOM

Ashford
Salary: TBA
THE POTENTIAL TO EARN LIKE A CEO WITH MORE FREEDOM You Deserve It!! Personal Development Industry Outstanding Training www.incomesunlimited.com/glo balsuccess Call Now 07861 238109.

To apply/more information:
Global Success
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07861 238109
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

Recycling Advisors and Supervisors

Kent
Salary: See Below
Recycling Advisors/Supervisors required to join our exciting Public Engagement Team, working across Kent on behalf of the Kent Waste Partnership to promote recycling to residents. Advisors: £7.00 p/h + expenses. Supervisors: £8.25 p/h + expenses. All positions full time (max 40 hours per week) for 11 weeks. Must be able to work evenings and weekends. Start date 08/05/09. For an application form contact Azim Khan at M+E-L Research on 0121 604 4664 or email azim.khan@m-e-l.co.uk.
To apply/more information:
MEL Research
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0121 604 4664
Email azim.khan@m-e-l.co.uk

Economic Development Officer

Canterbury
Salary: £20,517 - £25,719 pa
Closing Date: 17 April @ 12 Noon
Chief Executive's Department - 37 hours per week Canterbury City Council is a big business with a turnover of more than £100 million and over 900 employees. Rated an Excellent Council and a Times Best Council to Work for, Canterbury is a great place to work. Our conditions include final salary pension scheme plus benefits, flexible working hours and relocation package (where applicable). We are looking for an individual to manage projects that promote and support local economic development. You will demonstrate an understanding of economic development issues and have excellent communications skills to develop relationships within the organisation and with partners including the business community. We prefer applications on-line. For further details of this position and all our latest opportunities and to apply on-line, visit our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/jobs or email jobs@canterbury.gov.uk. You can also call 01227 862072 (24 hour answerphone). We can supply application packs in Braille or large print format if required.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury City Council
Quoting Job Ref: 1814
Tel: 01227 862072
Email jobs@canterbury.gov.uk

Salary: £25,729 - £28,191 pa pro rata
Closing Date: 17 April @ 12 Noon
Chief Executive's Department - 22/5 hours per week - Three year fixed term contract
Canterbury City Council is a big business with a turnover of more than £100 million and over 900 employees. Rated an Excellent Council and a Times Best Council to Work for, Canterbury is a great place to work. Our conditions include final salary pension scheme plus benefits, flexible working hours and relocation package (where applicable). Are you self-motivated, excellent at project management and partnership development and experienced in European funding? This exciting role involves supporting and encouraging entrepreneurship, the development of micro businesses and encouraging cross border trading. French or Flemish language skills would be an advantage and the ability to travel and work flexible hours are required. We prefer applications on-line. For further details of this position and all our latest opportunities and to apply on-line, visit our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/jobs or email jobs@canterbury.gov.uk. You can also call 01227 862072 (24 hour answerphone). We can supply application packs in Braille or large print format if required.
To apply/more information:
Canterbury City Council
Quoting Job Ref: 1815
Tel: 01227 862072
Email jobs@canterbury.gov.uk

Rochester
Salary: £9,000/hour
Our client in Hoo is looking for a Night Shunter to carry out refuelling duties for their fleet of vehicles. Hours of work are Monday to Friday, 1700 to 2200. The work will involve refuelling each vehicle one by one, carrying out as many as possible within the 5 hours. Candidates must hold an LGV C+E licence, and ideally have experience of driving a wide variety of vehicles, from Class 1 to Van. Due to insurance, applicants must be over 25, have no more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs) and have over 2 years relevant experience. This role is on a temporary to permanent basis over 13 weeks, after which the successful candidate will transfer to our client's employ. **To apply/more information:**
Andy or Alex
Best Connection Agency
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 664999
Email maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

PART-TIME FIELD SALES EXECUTIVE

Medway
Salary: TBA
DON'T EVEN CALL UNLESS YOU ARE AN OVER ACHIEVER AND CAN PROVE IT! We are a high quality, established company who have been trading in the construction industry for over 30 years. Come and build an empire within our fine company. WE ONLY EMPLOY TOP PRODUCERS. If you were an average executive in 2009, you have earned so far this year

your basic pay plus over £3,000 in commission. If you were a star you would have earned the same basic plus over £6,000 in commission. YOUNG OR OLD, IF YOU HAVE GOT WHAT IT TAKES, WE WILL KNOW! Contact us on: 01634 263121
To apply/more information:
O'Connell's Drywall Contractors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 263121
Email
john@oconnellsdrywall.com

Catalogue Distributors

Kent
Salary: £50-£300 per week
£50-£300 per week. Flexi hours, Part or full time 18+. Tel: 0845 8736035
www.aim2aspire.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Goldchasers
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 8736035
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

Night Shunter / Refueller

Rochester
Salary: £9,000/hour
Our client in Hoo is looking for a Night Shunter to carry out refuelling duties for their fleet of vehicles. Hours of work are Monday to Friday, 1700 to 2200. The work will involve refuelling each vehicle one by one, carrying out as many as possible within the 5 hours. Candidates must hold an LGV C+E licence, and ideally have experience of driving a wide variety of vehicles, from Class 1 to Van. Due to insurance, applicants must be over 25, have no more than 6 points for minor endorsements (no DRs or DDs) and have over 2 years relevant experience. This role is on a temporary to permanent basis over 13 weeks, after which the successful candidate will transfer to our client's employ. **To apply/more information:**
Andy or Alex
Best Connection Agency
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 664999
Email maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/00566/FL – Matanzas London Road Addington West Malling Kent ME19 5PL – PS Homes Ltd are applying for demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings and replacement with new chalet bungalow. Reason: DEPART

TM/09/00600/LB – Canon Court Farm Canon Lane Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5PQ – Trustess Of The EGW Boscawen 1986 Settlement are applying for Listed Building Application: Proposed extension to provide boiler room, wc, utility and bathroom. General refurbishment and internal/external alterations. Proposed detached garage and log store and relocation of existing summer house (Resubmission of TM07/03877/LB). Reason: CA LB

TM/09/00557/RM – Ryarsh Park Roughetts Road Ryarsh West Malling Kent ME19 5RP – Explore Living are applying for full details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale submitted pursuant to Outline Application TM/03/03377/OA for mixed use development comprising 768 sqm of business floorspace (mixed A1, B1 and D1 uses) and residential development of 91 dwellings on 2.91 hectares of land plus the provision of revisions to access and 8.2 hectares of strategic open space. Reason: HA MD PROW

TM/08/03692/FL – Fremains Dell Comp Lane Offham West Malling Kent ME19 5NW – Mr Paul Garrod is applying to convert bungalow into two storey building with en-suite bedroom in attic, rebuild garage with double storey roof extension. Rear single storey extension. Reason: CA

TM/08/03713/LB – The Farmhouse 97 High Street West Malling Kent ME19 6NA – Mrs Natasha Chaussey is applying for Listed Building Application: Erection of a wooden shelter for smokers at the rear of the building. Reason: CA LB

Reasons for the case being publicised:
LB Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
MD Application is a Major Development
PROW Application affects a Public Right of Way
DEPART Application does not accord with the Development Plan
HA Site is over 1ha.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Do It Online" and follow the instructions for "Planning Applications" online. You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below).

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 3 May 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
12 April 2009



PUBLIC NOTICE

EDF ENERGY NETWORKS (SPN) PLC SECTION 37 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 REGULATION 5 OF THE ELECTRICITY (APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENTS) REGULATIONS 1990
NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO REFURBISH THE EXISTING 132KV OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE TOWER (ROUTE REFERENCE PF) IN THE AREA OF HIGH WEALD AONB KENT (TOWERS PF50 – PF 35 TQ917254, TQ937291)

IN PURSUANCE OF THE ABOVE REGULATIONS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT EDF Energy Networks (SPN) Plc, Registered Office 40 Grosvenor Place, Victoria, London SW1X 7EN has submitted to the Secretary of State at the Department for Energy and Climate Change an application for her consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed planning permission pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to install and keep installed a 132kV (132,000 volts) lattice steel pylon overhead line.

The proposed refurbishment to this existing overhead line is required to maintain the existing supply of 132kV to Hastings Grid Substation and Ruckinge Grid Substation.

A full set of the application documentation, including a location plan have been deposited for public inspection at the following location:-

Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL
Planning Applications, Kent County Council, 1st Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

Tenterden Library, Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Row, Tenterden, TN30 6HP

The application documentation will be available for inspection at the above locations until 10th May 2009, without payment of any fee, during the normal business hours of the offices at these locations.

Any objections and/or representations in respect of the application must be made in writing and addressed to The Secretary of State, Department for Energy and Climate Change, Onshore Electricity Development Consents, V2120, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET on or before 10th May 2009 and should state the grounds on which they are made, and is asked to send a copy to me.

Any such objections or representations will be copied to the relevant planning authority and the applicant unless the person making them requests in writing that they should not be so copied. If there is such a request then the relevant planning authority and the applicant will only be informed that an objection has been made but no details will be forwarded to them.

Date 8th April 2009.

TIM FIELD

EDF Energy c/o Turner & Partners, The Old Hospital, Ardingly Road, Cuckfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 5HF

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Highways - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES (AMENDMENT No 12) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in excise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 124 and Part IV of Schedule (Of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, proposes to make an Order the effect of which would be to:

Introduce “no waiting at any time” (double yellow lines) on following roads or lengths of road: Kipling Road, Tufton Walk, East Street and Regents Place;

Remove day time (single yellow lines) in East Street and Regents Place;

Introduce designated parking bays in West Street and Godinton Road (Ringway);

Introduce a Taxi Rank in Elwick Road;

Introduce a loading bay in Bank Street and in Godinton Road (Ringway);

Remove the prohibition of loading and unloading in Station Road.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, between 9.00am and 5pm and at Invicta House, Maidstone.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Parking Manager, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL by noon on Tuesday 5 May 2009

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Ashford from as described in column 1 of the schedule to this order on or after 30 April 2009 for an estimated period of as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 2 of the schedule to this order.

The Affected Route	The Alternative Route	Date & Times of Road Closure
Denwood Street, Crundale From its junction with Upper Olantigh to Sole Street	Sole Street, Olantigh Road and Longport	Between 5 May and 12 May 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Wissenden Lane, Bethersden From its junction with Romden Road to School Road	Church Hill, Mill Road, Pluckley Road, Chambers Green Road, Smarden Road, Pluckley Road and Romden Road	Between 8 and 17 June 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Ram Lane, Hothfield From its junction with A20 to Little Chart Road	A20 Maidstone Road, Cade Road, School Road, West Street and Little Chart Road	Between 13 and 22 May 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Blackwall Road, Ashford From its junction with A2070 Kennington Road to Goodcheap Lane	Goodcheap Lane, Hinxhill Road, The Street and Kennington Road	Between 6 and 13 May 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Godinton Lane and Worten Lane Ashford From its junction with A20 to Etchden Road	Etchden Road, Bears Lane, Bethersden Road, The Street, School Road, Station Road and A20 Maidstone Road	Between 7 and 19 May 2009 for four days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Stalisfield Road, Charing From its junction with Faversham Road to Hart Hill	Hart Hill, A20 Maidstone Road, A252 Canterbury Road, Charing Hill and Faversham Road	Between 15 May and 27 June 2009 for three days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Green Hill Lane, Egerton From its junction with New Road and Munday Bois Road	Munday Bois Road, Rock Hill Road and New Road	Between 20 May and 29 May 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Water Lane, Smarden From its junction with High Street to Bell Lane	Bell Lane, Burnt House Lane, Pluckley Road and The Street	Between 22 May and 1 June 2009 for three days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Burnthouse Lane, Smarden From its junction with Bell Lane to The Cut	Bell lane, A274 Headcorn Road, Smarden Road and The Cut	Between 27 May and 2 June 2009 as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Elvey Lane, Pluckley For its entire length	No alternative diversion route	Between 27 May and 3 June 2009 for one day as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Sparrow Hatch, Bethersden From its junction with Bethersden Road to Dowle Street Road	Bethersden Road, Fridd Road, Pluckley Road, Station Road and Dowle Street Road	Between 28 May and 4 June 2009 for one day as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Bull Lane, Bethersden From its junction with A28 Ashford Road to Smarden Road	A28 Ashford Road, School Road, Wissenden Lane, Romden Road, Buckmans Green Lane, Bethersden Road and Smarden Road	Between 2 June and 11 June 2009 for five days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Wagstaff Lane, Biddenden From its junction with Omenden Lane to high Halden Road	Omenden Lane, Bethersden Road, Smarden Road, Pot Kiln Lane and High Halden Road	Between 3 and 18 June 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.

Thurstons Lane, High Halden From its junction with High Halden Lane to Shawlands Lane	High Halden lane, A262 Biddenden Road, A28 Ashford Road and Cripple Hill	Between 9 and 16 June 2009 for two day as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Bromley Green Road, Ruckinge From its junction Hamstreet Road to Capel Road	Hamstreet Road and Capel Road	Between 9 and 26 June 2009 for four days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Birchett Lane, Woodchurch Road, Coldblow and Spot House Lane, Orlestone From its junction with Hamstreet Road to Shadoxhurst Road	Hamstreet Road, Ashford Road, Warehorne Road B2067, Brook Street, Lower Road, Place Lane, Spot House Lane and Shadoxhurst Road	Between 17 June and 26 June 2009 for three days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Swain Road, Tenterden From its junction with Ingleden Road to B2067 Woodchurch Road	Swain Road, A28 Silver Hill, Ashford Road, B2080 Beacon Oak Road and B2067 Woodchurch Road	Between 22 June and 30 June 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Frogs Lane, Rolvenden From its junction with A28 Hastings Road to Maytham Road	A28 Hastings Road and Maytham Road	Between 24 June and 2 July 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Readers Bridge Road, Tenterden From its junction with Bugglesden Road to Grange Road	Bugglesden Road, A262 Biddenden Road, A28 Ashford Road, Shoreham Lane and Grange Road	Between 24 June and 30 June 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
B2080 Appledore Road, Tenterden From its junction with Woodchurch Road to Ebony Road	B2080 Reading Street, Tenterden Road, The Street, Station Road, Rhee Wall Road A2070, Ashford Road, Warehorne Road, Kenardington Road, Warehorne Road and Brook Street	Between 26 June and 7 July 2009 for three days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Acton Lane and Ebony Road, Isle of Oxney From its junction with Reading Street B2080 to Stocks Road B2082	Stocks Road, Wittersham Road, Catts Hill, Ferry Road, B2080 Tenterden Road and Reading Street	Between 1 July and 10 July for three days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Wittersham Road, Wittersham From its junction with Rye Road to Top Road	Rose Hill, Lower Road and Catts Hill	Between 6 and 10 July 2009 for one day as advised by the appropriate signage.
Catts Hill, Stone Cum Ebony From its junction with Church Road to Top Road	Church Road and Top Road	Between 3 and 17 July 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site.
Knock Hill, Stone Cum Ebony From its junction with Military Road to Catts Hill	Military Road, The Street, B2080 Tenterden Road, Ferry Road, Appledore Road and Catts Hill	Between 8 and 14 July 2009 for one day as advised by the appropriate signage on site.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FAVERSHAM ROAD, WHITSTABLE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works to install ducts for EDF Energy, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Faversham Road, Whitstable, between the Blue Anchor Public House and the junction with Lucerne Drive, on 27 April 2009, for an estimated period of 10 nights or until the works are complete. It is intended that the works will be carried out overnight between the hours of 7.00 pm and 7.00 am with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative routes for through traffic will be: eastbound, via Faversham Road, Seasalter Road, Head Hill Road, Whitstable Road, A299 Thanet Way, A2990 Thanet Way, Borstal Hill and Joy Lane; westbound via Seasalter Lane, A299 on slip, A299 Thanet Way, Staple Street, Staple Street Road, Head Hill Road and Seasalter Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(DARGATE ROAD, WHITSTABLE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dargate Road, Whitstable, outside and opposite no 133 Dargate Road, from 15 April 2009 for an estimated period of one week or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be eastbound: via Plum Pudding Lane, Thanet Way overbridge, High Street Road, A299 Thanet Way, A2990 Thanet Way, Clapham Hill, Thanet Way on slip, westbound on A299 Thanet Way to Dargate Road.

Westbound via Dargate Road, Thanet Way on slip A299 Thanet Way, Thanet Way Off slip at High Street Services, then High Street Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Canterbury from as described in column 1 of the schedule to this order on 13 April 2009 for an estimated period of as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 2 of the schedule to this order.

The Affected Route	The Alternative Route	Date & Times of Road Closure
Waltham Road, Waltham The entire road from Duckpit Road in Petham to Kake Street	The Street, Town Road, B2068 Stone Street, Thorn Lane, Deane Hill, Hassell Street, Woods Hill, Kake Street	Between 13 April and 27 April 2009 for three days as advised by the appropriate signage on site
B2068 Faussett Hill, Canterbury	B2068 Stone Street, M20, A260, A2, New Dover Road, Old Dover Road and Nackington Road	Between 14 April and 29 April 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site
Grimthorpe Avenue, Whitstable Between the junction with Grimthorpe Avenue and Meadow Walk	Borstal Hill, Long Reach Close, Sherwood Drive	Between 16 April and 1 May 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site
Martindown Road, Whitstable Between the junction with Grimthorpe Avenue and Meadow Walk	Sherwood Drive, Lamb's Walk, Meadow Walk	Between 20 April and 6 May 2009 for two days as advised by the appropriate signage on site
Stodmarsh Road, Stodmarsh Between the junction with Burnt house Hill and Waterham Cottage	Court Hill North, Hollybush Lane, Stodmarsh Road	Between 22 April and 11 May 2009 for three days as advised by the appropriate signage on site
Stodmarsh Road, Littlebourne Between the junction with A257 Littlebourne Road and Well Lane	A267 Littlebourne Road, A257 Canterbury Road, A257 The Hill, Jubilee Road, Court Hill, Stodmarsh Road	Between 22 April and 11 May 2009 for three days as advised by the appropriate signage on site

This order will come into force on Monday 13 April 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for the works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
GREEN STREET GREEN ROAD, DARENTH (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting vehicular traffic to travelling at a speed of 10mph using convoy working on Gren Street Green Road, Darenth between the southern boundary of Durham Cottage and the southern boundary of Rats Castle, a total distance of 1050m.

The Order will become effective on 27th April 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 4 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

There is no alternative route for the route described above required.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage works to be carried out by Kent Highway Services.

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS) (GOODNESTONE) (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called “the Act”) and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will extend the 30 mph speed limit on the following lengths of roads in Goodnestone Village.

Name of Road	Length of Road
Cave Lane	Between points 140 metres south east and 320 metres north west of the junction with Boyes Lane
Boyes Lane	From the junction with cave Lane to the junction with Saddlers Hill
Saddlers Hill	Entire length
Catshole Hill	From a point in line with the centre line of The Street for a distance of 40
Goodnestone Hill	From the junction with Saddlers Hill for a distance of 100 metres to the eastern boundary of Hop View
The Street	Entire length
School Lane	Entire length
Park View Close	Entire length

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, between 9.00am and 5pm, at Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford and at Invicta House, Maidstone.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to t&d.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Tuesday 5 May 2009.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



Highways - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
POUNDSBRIDGE LANE, PENSHURST (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
EMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Poundsbridge Lane, Penshurst from the entrance of Mill House to opposite Poundsbridge Manor

The Order will become effective on 27th April 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 12 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Penhurst Road, Rogues Hill, Fordcombe Road, New Road, Saints Hill, Spring Hill and The Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage works to be carried out by Kent Highway Services.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HOLMESDALE HILL, SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Holmesdale Hill, South Darenth from its junction with Gills Road for a distance of 450m.

The Order will become effective on 27th April 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Shrubbery Road, Rabbits Road, Canada Farm Road, Gills Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate tree cutting to renew an aerial cable for BT.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HAVEN HILL, ASH CUM RIDLEY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Haven Hill, Ash Cum Ridley between its junctions with Malthouse Road and Fairseat Lane.

The Order will become effective on 27th April 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Malthouse Road, Stansed Hill and Fairseat Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the installation of a new electrical supply.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGHLANDS HILL, SWANLEY VILLAGE ROAD AND WOOD STREET, SWANLEY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic from Highlands Hill at its junction with Main Road, on Swanley Village Road for its entire length and Wood Street, Swanley from its junction with Swanley Village Road to its junction with Church Road/Gildenhill Road.

The Order will become effective on 27th April 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 2 days and commence on 27th April. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Swanley Lane, High Street, London Road, Button Street, Swanley Village Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage works to be carried out by Kent Highway Services.

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(THE OLD HIGH STREET, FOLKESTONE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new electrical, foul and clean water works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on The Old High Street, Folkestone from the junction with Rendezvous Street to the junction with Tontine Street on or after 27 April 2009 for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

No alternative route for through traffic. Local access only.

Highways - Borough of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(QUINTON ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE)(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that on 6th April 2009 Kent County Council made an Order under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to prohibit driving on Quinton Road, Sittingbourne, on the section of the original alignment of Quinton Road directly in front of Quinton Farm House, from the access point from Quinton Road (new alignment) 40 metres southeast of the entrance to Quinton Farm House to its most north-westerly point.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 13th April 2009, together with the associated maps and documents may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent Highway Services Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH and at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(QUINTON ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE)(ONE WAY) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that on 6th April 2009 Kent County Council made an Order under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to prohibit driving on the original alignment of Quinton Road, Sittingbourne, between the northwestern access point located between Quinton Farm House and Quinton Cottage and the southeastern access point located at Quinton Stores, except in a south-easterly direction.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 13th April 2009, together with the associated maps and documents may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent Highway Services Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH and at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - SECTION 116 STOPPING UP OF LAND AT WATER LANE, FAVERSHAM

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Maidstone Magistrates Court on 9 June 2009 at 2.00pm for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary at Water Lane, Faversham as shown in red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX and at the offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Nicolette Davis of Kent Highway Services either in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre) or by email to nikki.davis@kent.gov.uk

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HAINE ROAD (FORMERLY A256), RAMSGATE) (7.5 TONNES WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2009 (VARIOUS ROADS, RAMSGATE) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2009 (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2009 (PROHIBITION OF RIGHT HAND TURNS) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made Orders under Sections 1, 2, 4, 82, 83, 84, and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers, the effect of which has imposed several Traffic Management measures primarily on the new Thanet Access road which will be named the A256 New Haine Road and link to the existing section of the A256 New Haine Road which is currently under construction in Ramsgate.

These measures include proposals to introduce a 7.5 Tonnes weight limit and reduce the existing speed limit from 40 to 30mph on the section of Haine Road (formerly A256), between its southern and northern roundabouts with A256 New Haine Road; thereby encouraging drivers to use the new by pass route.

In the interests of road safety “no right turn” movements have been introduced onto some parts of the A256 Haine Road and the A256 New Haine Road, with a total ban on parking on the A256 New Haine Road and all side roads. All footways along the new route are shared un-segregated pedestrian/cycle routes.

A copy of the Orders which shall come into operation Monday 20th April 2009, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Office, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 1XX and at Thanet District Council Offices, PO Box 9 Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Thanet from as described in column 1 of the schedule to this order on or after 27 April 2009 for an estimated period of as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 2 of the schedule to this order.

The Affected Route	The Alternative Route	Date & Times of Road Closure
Manston Road, Ramsgate Manston Court Road to Haine Road	Haine Road, A299 Thanet Way, B2190 Manston Road, B2050 Manston Road OR Manston Road, Vincent Road, Manston Court Road, Haine Road	30 April - 8 May 2009 inclusive (19:00 - 05:00)
High Street St Lawrence, Ramsgate (Wilfred Road to Chapel Road)	Eastbound signed from Nethercourt Roundabout. London Road, St Augustine Road, Grange Road, Paragon, Harbour Parade, Madeira Walk, Wellington Crescent, Victoria Parade, Victoria Road, Boundary Road. Southbound: Manston Road, Haine Road, Canterbury Road East and then follow diversion route. Westbound - Pick up at Chatham Street traffic signals for Margate Road, Allenby Road, Newington Road (High Street traffic to use Park Road and Shah Place then diversion route) Wilfred Road traffic to use Grange Road, London Road and diversion route. Grange Road traffic to use Wilfred Road, Station Approach Road, Princes Road and diversion route	7 - 14 May 2009 inclusive (19:00 - 00:00)
Boundary Road, Ramsgate	Hereson Road, Ramsgate Road, Bromstone Road, Pysons Road, Margate Road OR Victoria Road, Victoria Parade, Wellington Crescent, Madeira Walk, Harbour Parade, Paragon, Grange Road, St Augustines Road, London Road, Nethercourt Hill, High Street St Lawrence, Park Road - Reverse for opposite direction.	7 - 14 May 2009 inclusive (19:00 - 00:00)
Hartsdown Road junction with Nash Road (Coffin Corner traffic signals), Margate. Junction closure will affect approaches from: 1. Nash Road 2. Manston Road 3. Shottendane Road 4. Hartsdown Road 5. College Road	1. Star Lane, Ramsgate Road, College Road, Tivoli Road, Tivoli Park Avenue and All Saints Avenue 2. Shottendane Road, High Street Garlinge, Canterbury Road, All Saints Avenue, Tivoli Park Avenue, Tivoli Road, Beatrice Road and Ramsgate Road. 3. High Street Garlinge, Canterbury Road, All Saints Avenue, Tivoli Park Avenue, Tivoli Road, Beatrice Road and Ramsgate Road. 4. Hartsdown Road, All Saints Avenue, Tivoli Park Avenue, Tivoli Road, Beatrice Road and Ramsgate Road. 5. Tivoli Road, Tivoli Park Avenue and All Saints Avenue	18 - 19 May 2009 inclusive (19:00 - 05:00)
Queens Road/Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs High Street to Granville Avenue	Advise from The Broadway and Gladstone Road junctions using Osbourne Road, Seafield Road, Gladstone Road and Ramsgate Road. Albion Street traffic to use High Street then diversion route. Southbound traffic to use York Street, Oscar Road, Victoria Parade, West Cliff Avenue, Dumpton Park Drive, Montefiore Avenue and Ramsgate Road	20 -22 May 2009 inclusive (19:00 - 05:00)

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)
(CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT No 20) ORDER 2009**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be:-

London Road: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on both sides from the junction with Nethercourt Hill to a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 98 and 100 Nethercourt Hill;

Chilton Lane: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the Eastern side from the junction of London Road for a distance of 15 metres in a southerly direction;

Kendal Close: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on both sides from the junction with Canterbury Road East for a distance of 12 metres in a northerly direction;

Canterbury Road East: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the northern side from a point 5 metres west of the junction with Kendal Close to Nethercourt Circus roundabout;

Canterbury Road East: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the southern side from a point 7 metre west of the western boundary of No. 1 Chilton Lane to the junction with Nethercourt Circus roundabout;

Nethercourt Hill: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the southern side from the junction with London Road for a distance of 15 metre in a north easterly direction;

Nethercourt Hill: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the western side from a point opposite a point 4 metres south west from the northern building line of No 34 Nethercourt Hill to a point in line with the northern boundary of Upper Lodge;

Nethercourt Hill: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the eastern side from a point adjacent to a point 4 metres south west of the northern building line of No 34 Nethercourt Hill to a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 10 and 12 Nethercourt Hill;

Nethercourt Hill: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on both sides from a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 4 and 6 Nethercourt Hill to the junction with High Street St Lawrence;

Nethercourt Gardens: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on both sides from a point in line with the western building line of Nos 4 and 12 to the junction with Nethercourt Hill;

High Street St Lawrence: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the eastern side from the junction with Nethercourt Hill to a point in line with the common boundary of No 2 Southwood Gardens and No 96 High Street St Lawrence;

High Street St Lawrence: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the western side from the junction with Nethercourt Hill to a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 83 and 85 High Street St Lawrence;

Southwood Gardens: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the southern side from a point in line with the common boundary Nos 1 and 3 Southwood Gardens to the junction with High Street St Lawrence;

Nethercourt Farm Road: prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on both sides from a point in line with the western boundary of No 93 High Street St Lawrence to the junction with High Street St Lawrence.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to t&d.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Tuesday 5 May 2009.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, TONBRIDGE & MALLING) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND ON-STREET PARKING (AMENDMENT 1) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 & 4 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act, proposes to make the above Order.

The Order will introduce no waiting 'at any time' prohibition (double yellow line) to prevent parking at unsuitable places and reinforce the rules of the Highway Code at certain locations in Thorn Close and Robin Hood Lane (Blue Bell Hill Village) Pratlting Street, Hermitage Lane, Coldharbour Lane, London Road (A20), Teapot Lane, Elm Walk, Burnt Ash Road, Mills Road, Wealden Way, Lake Road, Friars View and Millhall in Aylesford; London Road (A20), Bradbourne Lane, Orchard Grove and Cobdown Close in Ditton; Cottenham Close and Mill Street in East Malling; Tonbridge Road (A26), Love Lane, in Waterybury; London Road (A20) and White Hill in Wrotham; High Street (A26) and Carpenters Lane in Hadlow; Nizels Lane in Hildenborough; and Yardley Park Road and Chiltern Way in Tonbridge.

In addition, the Order will upgrade existing no waiting Monday - Saturday, 8 am to 6 pm restrictions (single yellow lines) to no waiting 'at any time' prohibition (double yellow lines) on the east side of Waterloo Road, opposite its junction with Douglas Road in Tonbridge.

The Order also introduces no waiting restriction Monday to Friday, 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm (single yellow lines) in Thorn Close, Blue Bell Hill Village, Aylesford to preserve and improve environmental and amenity facilities in a residential area.

The Order will contain the usual exemptions to enable a vehicle to wait with police permission or for passengers to board or alight, for the loading and unloading of goods, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the road, for disabled persons and for emergency vehicles.

The remainder of Parking Zones F, G, K, and N are confirmed.

A copy of the Order together with a map, a copy of the Councils reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices, Kings Hill, West Malling or Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge and the Kent County Council, Invicta House, County Hall Maidstone Kent.

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please contact 01732 876222 during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to object to the Order should write to the Director of Planning, Transportation and Leisure, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by not later than 12 noon on Tuesday, 5th May, 2009.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MILL STREET, SNODLAND LEVEL CROSSING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on Mill Street at the level crossing. This order will come into effect on or after Saturday 2nd May for a period of up to 2 nights or until such works are completed.

There is no alternative route available.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary for repairs for track maintenance to Snodland Level crossing. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Roger Casement on 01227 366000.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(OLD ROAD, WATERINGBURY) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Old Road, Waterybury from the junction of A26 Tonbridge Road to Red House Gardens on or after Monday 27th April 2009 for a period of up to 12 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via Old Road, Pizien Well Road, A26 Tonbridge Road and for northbound traffic vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for essential drainage works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Alison Lewis on 08458 247 800.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VIGO ROAD, STANDED) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Vigo Road, Standed outside Whitcroft on or after Monday 27th April 2009 for a period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for westbound traffic via A227 Gravesend Road, Fairseat Lane, Platt House Lane, Vigo Road and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to install a new electricity supply, should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Emma Orsborne of Amber Langis Limited on 01474 573831.

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(QUEENS ROAD, HAWKHURST) (ONE WAY) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

NOTICE is hereby given that on 6th April 2009 Kent County Council made an Order under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Queens Road Hawkhurst between its junction with Queens Court and a point 70 metres north of that junction in any direction other than northbound

The alternative route for southbound traffic is via Heartenok Road, Oakley Road and A268 Rye Road.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 13th April 2009, together with the associated maps and documents may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford, ME20 7BU and at Kent Highway Services, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MAIDSTONE ROAD, PADDOCK WOOD) (7.5 TONNES WEIGHT LIMIT) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

NOTICE is hereby given that on 6th April 2009 Kent County Council made an Order under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to prohibit vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes from driving along Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood between its southern junction with Hop Pocket Lane and its junction with Station Road.

Exemptions are provided in the Order for buses, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the road and for emergency service vehicles.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 13th April 2009, together with the associated maps and documents may be inspected during normal office hours at Main Reception, Invicta House, Kent Highway Services, County Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. A copy will also be available for inspection at the offices of Paddock Wood Town Council.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

**C & S REMOVALS LIMITED
Company Number 06003848**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, on 29 April 2009, at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Proxy forms to be used for the purposes of the above Meeting must be lodged, accompanied by statements of claim, at the registered office of the Company situated at Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day prior to the date of the Meeting.

Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Nedim Ailany and Andrew Tate, of Abbott Fielding Limited, Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above Company, and will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated: 3 April 2009
By Order of the Board
Neil Parsons, Chairman

**ALFRED GOSLETT FURNITURE
COMPANY LIMITED**

(Company Number 1671206)
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Wilmington Suite, Hilton Dartford Bridge Hotel, Masthead Close, Crossways Business Park, Dartford, DA2 6QE, on Friday 17 April 2009, at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. A list of names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at LB Insolvency, 129 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0QT, on Wednesday 15th April and on Thursday 16th April 2009.

By Order of the Board
Mr K D Nicholls, Director

**The Insolvency Act 1986
ECOMERCHANT LIMITED
Company Number 03550263**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Granville House, 49 The Mall, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8JW, on 17 April 2009, at 11.00 am for the purposes provided for in Sections 99 and 101 of the Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a statement of claim, at the offices of Augusta Kent Limited, Granville House, 49 The Mall, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8JW, not later than 12.00 noon on 16 April 2009. The proxy form and statement may be posted or sent by fax to 01795 538868. Secured creditors may only vote for the balance of the debt, which will not be recovered by enforcement of the security, unless right to enforce is waived. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Augusta Kent Limited, Granville House, 49 The Mall, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8JW, on 14 April 2009 and 15 April 2009 between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

If no liquidation committee is formed, a resolution may be taken specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated. The meeting will receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.

Dated: 31 March 2009
Joe Wild, Director

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**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP
ACT 2004**

**APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES
& CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Joynes House, New Road, Gravesend**

Applicant: **Giles Adey**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford, Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, ME14 1XX



**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP
ACT 2004**

**APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES
& CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Star & Eagle Hotel, High Street, Goudhurst**

Applicant: **Karin Martinez**

Name of Premises: **Donnington Manor Hotel, London Road, Duntun Green, Sevenoaks**

Applicant: **Mark Cotman**

Name of Premises: **Great Maytham Hall, Rolvenden, Cranbrook**

Applicant: **Roger Watts**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford, Head of Registration

Regulatory Services, First Floor, Invicta House

County Hall, Maidstone

Kent, ME14 1XX



PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for a Variation of Premises Licence
1 Dilip Rai hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ for variation of the following licensable activities:

1. The hours for sale of alcohol by retail
In respect of the premises situated at Buckland Hill, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 0SB known by the sign of The Corner Shop. The application can be viewed at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ during normal office hours (www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk).

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 30th April 2009. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800
(local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways





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Picasso plays to a customer gallery

INSIDE



SEAT's executive decision Page 60



Kitted out for the recession Page 61



IQ is smarter than Smart Pages 64-65

CITROËN launched its latest and most radical Picasso MPV this week.

Some trade sources say they can't see who the C3 Picasso is aimed at, but similar things were said about the original Xsara Picasso, which went on to become a perennial best-seller and shows no sign of faltering enough to be killed off – despite a gallery of Picassos unveiled since.

Ultimately though, you can see the C3 replacing the old stager and more, because it appeals to so many potential buyers.

Part of the draw is the C3's quality interior and ride and cruising refinement. It is not a bad drive either, a multiple bonus when buying at the bottom end of the range from £11,495, but a complement when would-be buyers start piling on extras. The C3 Picasso wears these well too – even the roof bars.

Standard kit includes MP3-compatible sound system with steering-wheel mounted controls and auxiliary socket, electrically adjustable mirrors and front electric windows.

As a result, you can see the car appealing as a cheap family wagon, 'funky wheels' for young buyers, executive holdall, lifestyle estate with a difference or 'smart yet sensible wheels' for empty nesters, to name but few.

I reckon the car looks best in dark colours with

TestDriving

by

STEVELOADER

Citroën Picasso

the £200 Black Pack alloys and bumper inserts, but Citroën has shrewdly offered various acid colours – it has 'cult car' written all over it.

We borrowed a 95bhp 1.4-litre petrol model from Wilmoths Citroën at Maidstone, the most junior engine, but lively enough for the new-comer and quiet on the motorway; a 120bhp 1.6-litre unit is also in the mix, but Wilmoths' general sales manager Kelvin Clayton expects the two 1.6-litre diesel options – 90bhp and 110bhp – to dominate sales, despite a £1,100 premium and signs of a swing back to petrol.

"People are thinking more about petrol because the vehicles and fuel are cheaper," he said. "But we always sit down with customers and ask them exactly what use they expect

from their car and the miles covered – in almost every case a petrol car buyer then buys a diesel and vice versa.

"Nevertheless, we expect a 70/30 split in favour of diesel for the C3 Picasso and we sold one hi-spec model before the customers even saw the car in the metal. We have a number of other leads, but most people are waiting until they can try our petrol and diesel demonstrators during our launch week (April 13-19)."

There are three trim levels: VT, VTR+ – the start point for air con as standard – and Exclusive. They all have typical Picasso versatility with split-folding rear seats that slide back and forth independently and can be folded away in one movement, leaving a flat load bay.

The front passenger seat also folds for extra load space within a 1.66m cabin – one of the longest in its class and rivalling many MPVs from the next segment up.

The C3 Picasso's boot is one of the biggest in its sector and has a removable boot floor, which can be positioned at two levels, while the glassy cabin can be enhanced with a panoramic roof (£520).



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MODEL SHOWN: NEW CITROËN C3 PICASSO 1.4 16V VTi 120HP EXCLUSIVE (WITH OPTIONAL BLACK PACK) £13695.

NEW CITROËN C3 PICASSO. THE SPACEBOX.

A compact yet hugely spacious mini MPV range with ultra flexible boot capacity that's the best in it's class. It comes with 2/3, 1/3 split folding rear seats as standard and great visibility thanks to its panoramic windscreen. There's your choice of 9 models, including 3 trim levels and 1.4/1.6 VTi petrol or 1.6HDi diesel engines. Now available with optional 3 years' Servicing Pack for only £200^a and **0% APR** typical finance over 2 years[†]. The Spacebox from £11,265.

CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE



*ON THE ROAD RECOMMENDED PRICES AND FINANCE OFFERS APPLY TO QUALIFYING NEW CITROËN VEHICLES ORDERED AND REGISTERED 01/04/09 - 30/04/09 AND INCLUDE VAT, DELIVERY TO DEALER AND NUMBER PLATES, GOVERNMENT FIRST REGISTRATION FEE, AND 12 MONTHS' GRADUATED VEHICLE EXCISE DUTY. BLACK/METALLIC PAINT OPTIONAL AT EXTRA COST. MODEL SHOWN: NEW CITROËN C3 PICASSO 1.4 16V VTi 120HP EXCLUSIVE (WITH OPTIONAL BLACK PACK) £13695. FROM PRICE SHOWN: NEW CITROËN C3 PICASSO 1.4 16V VTi 95HP £11265. †0% APR TYPICAL OVER 2 YEARS AVAILABLE ON ALL NEW CITROËN C3 PICASSO (EXCLUDING 1.4 VT AND 1.4 VTR+). 5.9% APR ELECT 3 FINANCE AVAILABLE ON NEW CITROËN C3 PICASSO 1.4 VT AND 1.4 VTR+ MODELS. FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM CITROËN FINANCIAL SERVICES, QUADRANT HOUSE, PRINCESS WAY, REDHILL, SURREY, RH1 1QA, UK. OVER 18S ONLY. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. ALLOW COST SERVICING PACK FOR 3 YEARS OR 35,000 MILES WITH £150 CUSTOMER CONTRIBUTION APPLIES TO VEHICLES REGISTERED BY 30/06/09. CONDITIONS APPLY. OFFERS, PRICES AND SPECIFICATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS FROM PARTICIPATING DEALERS FOR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND QUALIFYING BUSINESS USERS. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. PLEASE ASK US FOR DETAILS. COMPANIES WITH A CENTRALLY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH CITROËN UK LTD, NATIONAL FLEETS, MOTABILITY AND CONTRACT HIRE ARE EXCLUDED FROM THESE OFFERS. ALL MODELS SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY. FINANCE OFFERS APPLY TO UK ONLY.

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES: URBAN CYCLE, EXTRA URBAN, COMBINED (LITRES PER 100KM/MPG) & CO₂ EMISSIONS (G/KM); LOWEST: NEW C3 PICASSO 1.6HDi 16V (90HP) VTR+ AND EXCLUSIVE 6.0/47.1, 4.0/70.6, 4.7/60.1, 125. HIGHEST: NEW C3 PICASSO 1.6 16V VTi (120HP) 9.4/30.1, 5.5/51.4, 6.9/40.9, 159.

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08 58	NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 3000 MILES.....	£9995
08 58	NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO AIR CAFFE LATTE 1000 MILES.....	£10995
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08 58	VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 6 SPEED AUTO 5DR AIR BLACK 5000 MILES.....	£9995
08 58	MATRIX 1-6 GSI PAS AIR/C AUTO SHIMMER BLUE1500 MILES.....	£7495
08 58	MICRA ACCENTA PLUS 5 DOOR AUTO BLACK PAS A/C 1900 MILES.....	£8995
08 58	FOCUS 1-6 TITANIUM AUTO PAS 5 DR ESTATE SILVER 4000MILES.....	£12995
08 58	NEW FOCUS 2-0 TITANIUM AUTO PAS 5 DOOR BLACK 5000MILES.....	£12995
08 58	ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR STAR BLACK 6000 MILES.....	£8495
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07 07	FIESTA 1-6 STYLE CLIMATE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C 5000 MILES.....	£7495
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07 56	FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PASAIRC OCEAN BLUE 3000 MILES.....	£7495
06 56	FOCUS C-MAX GHIA AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 9000 MILES.....	£8995
06 56	FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR OCEAN BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56	FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 12000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56	FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS AIR/C PANTHER BLACK 11000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06	FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DOOR ALLOYS SEA GREY 14000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06	FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS ESTATE ALLOYS BLUE 14000 MILES.....	£7995
06 55	FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DOOR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 17000 MILES.....	£6495
06 55	FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PASAIRC SEA GREY METALLIC18000 MILES.....	£6495
06 55	FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PASAIRC SILVER METALLIC12000 MILES.....	£6495
05 55	FOCUS 2-0 GHIA ESTATESDRAUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£7995
05 55	FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLUE 13000MLS.....	£6495
04 54	FOCUS 1-6 3 DR ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS TONIC BLUE 6000 MILES.....	£4995
04 53	FOCUS 1-6 LX 5DR AUTO PAS ESTATE CAR SILVER 26000 MILES.....	£4995

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03 53	JAGUAR X-TYPE CLASSIC 2-1 AUTO PAS BLUE SAT NAV 25000 MILES£6995	
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07 57	CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£8995
07 57	NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 19000 MILES.....	£7995
07 07	NEW CORSA 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 2000MILES.....	£8995
07 07	NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 680 MILES.....	£7995
06 06	CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS ULTRA BLUE 2000 MILES.....	£6495
06 06	CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS ULTRA BLUE 8000MILES.....	£6495
06 06	CORSA 1-0 LIFE AUTO PAS 3DR STAR SILVER 11000 MILES.....	£4995
05 55	CORSA 1-4 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR STAR SILVER 24000 MILES.....	£5995
02 52	CORSA 1-2 CLUB 3DR EASYTRONIC AUTO PAS BLUE 19000 MILES.....	£3995

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06 56	CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO SILVER 5000 MILES.....	£8995
05 05	CITROEN C4 1-6 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER MET 19000 MILES.....	£5495

MAZDA

08 08	MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C BLUE MET 10000 MILES.....	£10995
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06 06	SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS SILKY SILVER 25000 MILES.....	£5495
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SKODA

08 08	SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 450 MILES.....	£9995
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KIA

06 55	KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX AUTO PAS 5 DR BLACK 12000 MILES.....	£4995
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07 57	HONDA CIVIC 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 7000 MILES.....	10995
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06 55	HONDA CRV SPORT 5DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR SILVER 6000 MILES.....	£9995
05 55	HONDA CRV SE AUTO PAS 5DR GRAFFITE GREY 10000 MILES.....	£9995
06 55	HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE SPORT AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER16000MILES.....	£9995
02 52	HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLUE 55000 MILES.....	£4995

HYUNDAI

07 57	HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX AUTO PAS BLUE AIR ALLOYS 12000 MILES.....	£5495
06 56	HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSI PAS AIR/C AUTO BLACK 16000 MILES.....	£5995
06 06	HYUNDAI MATRIX 18 CDX PAS AIR AUTO SHIMMERBLUE15000MILES.....	£6995
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06 06	HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSI PAS AIR AUTO MET GREEN 10000 MILES.....	£5495
06 55	HYUNDAI MATRIX 16 GSI PAS AIR AUTO SHIMMER BLUE20000 MILES.....	£4995

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08 57	TOYOTA AURIS TR 5DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 5000 MILES.....	£10995
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05 55	YARIS 1-3 T SPIRIT 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 3000 MILES.....	£7695
05 55	YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 11000 MILES.....	£6995
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05 05	YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS GREEN 23000MILES.....	£6995
03 03	YARIS 1-3 GLS 3 DR AUTO PAS CARLO BLUE SUNROOF 24000 MILES.....	£4995

NISSAN

07 57	NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 1500 MILES.....	£9995
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03 03	ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 MILES.....	£3495
04 53	ROVER 25i XL 5 DR AUTO PAS BRG/BLACK LEATHER ALLOYS 15000M.....	£3995
01 51	ROVER 45 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 35000 MILES.....	2995

DAIHATSU

06 06	DAIHATSU CHARADE SL 5DR AUTO PAS PURPLE JUST 2000 MILES.....	£5495
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CHEVROLET

08 57	CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS BLUE 5DR 13000 MILES.....	£5695
08 57	CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO AIR/C PAS BLACK 5DR 10000MILES.....	£6495
07 57	CHEVROLET TACUMA 2-0 CDX AUTO PAS AIR MET BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£5495
07 07	CHEVROLET TACUMA 2-0 CDX AUTO PAS AIR MET BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£4995
07 07	CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS YELLOW 5DR 2000 MILES.....	£5495
07 56	CHEVROLET TACUMA 2-0 CDX AUTO PAS AIR MET BLUE 7000 MILES.....	£4995
06 06	CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS BLUE 5DR 13000 MILES.....	£4495
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06 06	CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS BLACK 25000 MILES.....	£4295
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06 06	CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS YELLOW 15000 MILES.....	£4495
06 55	CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR POLY SILVER 15000 MILES.....	£4995

VOLKSWAGEN

07 57	VW POLO 1-4 S 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLACK 7000 MILES.....	£7995
07 07	VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£8495
07 07	VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CORNFLOWER BLUE 3000 MILES.....	£8495
06 56	VW POLO 1-4 S 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE MET 7000 MILES.....	£6995
04 04	VW POLO 1-4 TWIST AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/ BLACK 30000 MILES.....	£5495
99 V	VW GOLF 1-9 TURBO DIESEL SE AUTO PAS MET GREEN 53000 MILES.....	£3995

MONDEO

06 56	MONDEO 2-0 ZETEC ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR BLACK 8000 MILES.....	£9995
06 06	MONDEO 2-0 LX AUTO 5 DR SALOON PAS AIR/CON KELP 9000 MILES.....	£6995
04 54	MONDEO 2-0 ZETEC ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 20000 MILES.....	£6995

ASTRA

08 57	ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR ULTRA BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£7995
08 57	ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR PANNACOTTA 7000 MILES.....	£7995
07 57	ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 2000 MILES.....	£8995
07 07	ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES.....	£7495
07 07	ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR TURQUOISE 14000 MILES.....	£6995
07 56	ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£6495
06 56	ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN 5DR AUTO SILVER LEATHER ALLOYS 24000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06	ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE BLACK 15000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06	ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C METRO BLUE 6000 MILES.....	£6495
06 06	ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C POMMEGRANITE 12000 MILES.....	£5995
05 55	ASTRA 18 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR HATCH ULTRA BLUE MET 150000MLS.....	£5495
05 05	ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE GREEN 13000 MILES.....	£995

NEW ZAFIRA & MERIVA 5 & 7 STR MPV

07 57	NEW ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1000 MILES.....	£8995
07 07	MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 6000 MILES.....	£6995
07 07	MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 6000 MILES.....	£6995
05 55	MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 15000 MILES.....	£5995
05 54	ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS CD AIR/C DARK BLUE 12000 MILES.....	£5995

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MANUAL CARS

FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



Latest Exeo suits exec market at budget price

SEAT has just launched a new model derived from the previous Audi A4.

But will the new Exeo be seen as a smart executive suit at an unbeatable off-the-peg price or an Audi hand-me-down?

Sales inquiries so far suggest that the sporty Spanish arm of the VW group – and sister brand to Audi – may have uncovered a queue of potential conquest customers tempted by 'an Audi for SEAT money' (from £17,740).

The deal is sweetened by generous specification and the fact that

the donor car was replaced by the current A4 only last year and remained competitive to the last.

Just as important, the A4 Avant spin-off can be ordered now for delivery later this year – an affordable lifestyle estate known as the ST.

Four Exeo trim levels are offered – S, SE, Sport and flagship SE Lux – with a choice of two frugal and tax-friendly VW group diesels delivering 141bhp and 167bhp or a 188bhp turbocharged petrol engine, all with a six-speed manual gearbox.

Second swing at Golf Plus format

VOLKSWAGEN is not conceding defeat on the VW Golf Plus concept – essentially a high-roof MPV version of its big-selling Golf hatchback.

While it had all the driving appeal and mainstream/premium badge cachet of the standard car, the plus could look like a bit frumpy and pricey – though VW did improve deals and packages towards the end of the Mark 1's production run.

Nevertheless, VW is going for it again with a new Plus based on the sixth-generation Golf, which

inherits better looks and exemplary noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) savings that impressed me at the launch of the hatchback earlier this year.

We are also in a different car market now; people are downsizing across all sectors as the recession bites; the Plus might not have pleased many people last time, but a spacious cabin within family hatchback dimensions and a VW badge could be a winner now.

Golf Plus order books are open with deliveries from the end of April.



Greener Zoom Zoom for new MX-5



MAZDA has given its MX-5 roadster icon a green facelift for the new open-top driving season.

Fuel economy has been boosted by up to eight per cent to 40mpg, while CO2 emissions are down by up to seven per cent.

There is also now an auto gearbox option with steering wheel paddle shifts.

There are minor cosmetic changes too, with prices starting from £16,340 for the classic fabric roof models, while the folding hardtop Roadster Coupe ranges from £18,345.

Focus Zetec

Key features include:

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- CFC-free air conditioning
- Steering wheel with silver-effect accents
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- Aluminium-finish interior door handles/handbrake
- Roof curtain airbags
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Recession puts focus on kit car fun

by
STEVE LOADER

EASTER weekend marks the 19th year for the European Kit & Car Builder Show, staged at the Kent County Showground Detling near Maidstone (12-13 April).

It is one of the UK's largest of its type and Charing-based show promoter John Cooke - a founder of the Kent Kit Car Club in 1991 - believes it will show his industry bucking the recession:

"Many people budgeting up to £20,000 for a weekend fun car before the recession could now shop for a good quality two-seat roadster kit car that will set them back just £8,000."

The No1 kit car 'clone' is the AC Cobra as made by Hawk Cars of Frant, with other favourite look-alikes being based on the classic

Lotus Seven and Austin-Healey two-seaters.

Though he now drives a stunning V8 Cobra replica, it was a cheap and rugged utility kit that enticed John Cooke into kit cars in 1988, helped by hands-on experience as a spare-time racer of everything from Minis to Stock Cars.

But he is quick to point out that modern kit builders need less expertise; kits can be delivered in whatever state of assembly buyers want and with every conceivable part thrown in.

Would-be kit buyers in Kent also have some of the best of the industry on hand, including Hawk, AEON Sportscars of Marden, Blaze Sports Cars of Otham, Cranbrook Kitcars and GKD from Maidstone.

Parking at this weekend's show is free and there will be catering, a fun fair and rides for children, a daredevil motorcycle display by Kevin Carmichael, more than 80 manufacturers' and trade stands and 30 kit car clubs, plus some 400 privately-owned kit cars on display.



AT DETLING: The Secma F16 Roadster, imported from France in right-hand drive form by motorcycle specialists EC Bate of Dartford



UNDER COVER: New showroom will allow Apple MG to display up to 12 cars indoors

MG Apple's core business

SPORTS car legend MG is gearing up for the spring peak sales season and Gravesend dealer Apple MG has boosted appeal with a new showroom.

The new site at Lion Business Park, Dering Way, allows the company to display up to 12 cars under cover - sales were based previously at Camer Road, Meopham, which continues as the after sales department.

Apple sales manager Pat Camber said the new site would concentrate initially on the reborn MG TF model, sold for now as the fully-specified £15,995 LE500 with leather seats and removable hard top and assembled at the former Rover MG plant at Longbridge, Birmingham.

But he added that the company now had more room to display selected used MGs of all types and was just weeks away from launching a cut-price TF model for just £13,000. There will also be a new version of the former MG ZT (Rover 75) created by the new Chinese parent company

"We are open seven days a week and expecting a lot of interest over Easter weekend, although we are closed on Easter Sunday," said Pat.

Apple was formed 12 years ago by Laurie Collier and Martin Evans as Apple Developments at Meopham and has always specialised in performance work for the MG, X-Part and BMC/British Leyland Mini brands.

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vehicle search

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CORSA															
2007	07	Corsa Club	1.2	3	Air blue	10,125	7,295	2008	08	Astra Sxi	1.4	5	Metro blue	10,025	9,295
2008	08	New Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	1,880	9,195	2008	58	Astra Breeze Sports hatch	1.4	3	Black sapphire	3,100	10,795
2008	08	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	5	Star silver	3,265	9,995	2008	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Green spirit	3,725	11,495
2008	58	Corsa Sxi CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	4,200	9,995	ANTARA							
2008	58	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Black sapphire	6,800	9,495	2008	08	Antara S CDTi Auto	2.0	5	Slate blue	5,350	15,995
2008	58	New Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Metro blue	5,770	10,995	COMPANY OWNED CARS							
2008	58	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	3	Star silver	5,100	9,695	2008	08	Corsa Club A/c	1.2	5	Silver lightening		8,995
2008	58	Corsa Active CDTi	1.3D	3	Metro blue	8,000	9,295	2008	08	Corsa Club Auto	1.4	5	Star silver		9,995
2008	58	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Star silver	4,640	9,495	2008	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver		9,495
2008	58	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	3	Silver lightening	3,675	9,495	2008	08	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Metro blue		10,995
2008	58	Corsa Life A/c	1.2	3	Air blue	3,240	8,995	2008	58	Corsa Club MTA	1.2	3	Silver lightening		8,995
ASTRA								2008	58	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	5	Silver lightening		9,995
2005	05	Astra Life E/T A/c	1.6	5	Star silver	36,900	5,995	2008	58	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	3	Metro blue		10,495
2005	55	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.4	3	Ultra blue	14,600	6,995	2008	58	Corsa Club CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver		10,695
2006	06	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Metro blue	23,100	8,395	2008	58	Corsa Club Auto	1.4	5	Ultra blue		9,995
2006	06	Astra Club Auto	1.8	5	Ultra blue	22,500	6,995	2008	58	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver		9,495
2007	07	Astra Design S/hatch	1.6	3	Flame red	14,050	9,495	2008	58	Astra Exclusiv T/T	1.8	2	Panacotta		15,995
2007	57	Astra Club CDTi Est	1.3D	5	Panacotta	8,275	9,495	2008	58	Astra Club CDTi Estate	1.7D	5	Technical grey		11,995
2007	57	Astra Club CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	10,680	8,995	2008	58	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi (150ps)	1.9D	5	Panacotta		11,495
2008	08	Astra Club Auto	1.8	5	Star silver	3,460	10,895	2008	58	Vectra Exclusive CDTi (150ps)	1.9D	5	Black sapphire		11,495
								2008	58	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi	1.9D	5	Peacock		11,495

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2007	57	Combo	1.3 CDTi	White	Delivery	£7,495+VAT	2008	08	Combo CDTi	1.3D	White	7995
2008	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	White	Delivery	£10,295+VAT	2008	08	Combo CDTi	1.3D	White	7995
2008	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	Silver	Delivery	£10,495+VAT	2008	58	Combo CDTi	1.7D	White	8495
2008	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	Black	Delivery	£11,495+VAT	2008	08	Astravan Club CDTi	1.7D	White	8995
2008	58	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	Black	Delivery	£11,995+VAT	2008	08	Vivaro SWB CDTi	2.0D	White	10,995
2008	58	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	Black	Delivery	£13,995+VAT	2008	08	Vivaro SWB CDTi	2.0D	White	10,995
2008	58	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	Silver	Delivery	£13,995+VAT	2008	08	HVivaro SWB CDTi	2.0D	White	10,995
2008	58	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	Ink Blue	Delivery	£11,995+VAT	2008	58	Vivaro SWB CDTi	2.0D	Ink Blue	11,995
							2008	58	Vivaro Sportive CDTi	2.0D	Star silver	14,995
							2008	58	Movano MWB H/R	2.5	White	13,995

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DrivingReview

by
STEVELOADERCHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk**Toyota iQ**

IT WOULD be easy to dismiss Toyota's new iQ as a glib marketing reply to the Daimler/Mercedes-Benz group's 'Smart' answer to the city car question.

But the iQ is less a clever quip and more a complete re-think by the world's number one carmaker; possibly the most radical since Sir Alec Issigonis' original Mini.

Toyota's 'new Mini' easily outsmarts the two-seat Smart with a pair of extra seats for the addition of just 30cms, though this apparent Einsteinian genius falls to O-Level standard when you see there is no boot as such and one of those seats is unsuitable for an adult or a child in a child seat, unless the passenger in front has their nose pressed to the windscreen.

Nevertheless, the iQ is masterly packaging made possible by re-locating the engine, drivetrain and steering gear linkage, a flat under floor fuel tank, slimmer, but no less comfortable seat design and shrinking the heater/air con – well, it is a smaller car.

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SHIFT_the way you move

Toyota's higher IQ outsmarts Smart



The IQ is also relatively wide and has a staggered dashboard allowing the front passenger to sit closer to the windscreen than the driver, enabling an adult to squeeze in the seat behind.

Trying to do the same behind the driver though risks a trip to the osteopath; as I said, this is not a real seat though it can serve as the IQ's boot. In fact, both rear seats fold independently and a fabric cover can be stretched neatly across your shopping or luggage.

By this time you may be thinking that, like the Smart, all this compact convenience comes at the price of the ride and drive; I had written of the Smart's 'nodding dog' motion when driven with any pace and I could not see how the IQ's similarly short wheelbase could stop the baby Toyota rocking with every gearchange.

But the IQ is much better, probably because

the car is fractionally lower and Toyota claims to have moved all weight inboard as far as possible from the front and rear axles – the 'midships' fuel tank must help too.

The IQ will never be a cult car with drivers, but you never feel that you are having to make many allowances for it.

We tested both manual and auto versions through Motorline Toyota at Ashford. The self-changer costs £1,000 extra, but it is not simply a question of pricing since Toyota pitches the IQ as a premium purchase (from £9,495).

This looks dear against the Smart, from under £7,000, and you can buy the little Toyota Aygo for about the same and get four proper seats.

"People still buy the Aygo on price," agreed Motorline Toyota Ashford centre manager Robert Hendry. "But the IQ is a unique urban

vehicle. It may be small in size, but huge in style and safety – it could be the next iconic vehicle.

Colleague Robert Hobbs, in charge at Canterbury, agreed: "IQ customers appreciate something a little different. The IQ is a car with intelligent answers to questions often raised with small car packages. It's funky and genuinely fun to drive, with an amazing turning circle, plus a feel of interior quality not seen in such a small car before."

The IQ can be spec'd up with leather seats (£690), sat nav (£930) and even a rear parking sensor (£345), though you can look over your shoulder and work out from the rear window pretty much where the back end is sitting.

The answer to auto versus manual 'box appears clear cut initially: the manual's lower emissions make it road tax exempt and it

DrivingStats

- Toyota IQ £9,495
- Range: £test car-11,495
- Garage stats: 2.98m by 1.68m three-door city car
- Powertrain: 998cc/67bhp three-cylinder petrol engine driving front wheels through a five-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 93mph and 0-62mph in 14.7 seconds
- How green?: category-A (£0/year) road tax - 99g/km CO₂ emissions
- Official fuel figures: combined 65.7mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): n/a
- Fuel tank: 32 litres/7 gallons
- Insurance group: 2
- Warranty: three years/60,000 miles
- Website: www.toyota.co.uk

• Rivals: Chevrolet Matiz, Citroën C1 or C2, Daihatsu Charade (due soon), Fiat 500 or Panda, Ford Ka, Hyundai i10, Kia Picanto, Nissan Pixo (due soon), Perodua Kelisa, Peugeot 107, Renault Twingo, Smart ForTwo, Suzuki Alto, Toyota Aygo and VW Fox

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should average 5mpg more, while the auto adds a grand to the purchase price. But auto fits the city car ethos of the IQ and it is a genuinely nice unit with an override setting for icy or slippery conditions – that would be my favourite.

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>I_CAN_GO_ANYWHERE
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Model shown IQ 1.0 manual £10,275. Price correct at time of going to press and includes VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Subject to availability.

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 55.7 (4.9), Extra Urban 72.4 (3.9), Combined 65.7 (4.3) CO₂ emissions 99g/km.



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FUSION, 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto [Climate], fv06yds, metallic amethyst, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:6, mauve, 17085 miles, £7995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

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KA, 1.3i Collection [70] 3dr, gk56ukt, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:3, grey, 28230 miles, £5795, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

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LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr, gk08ycg, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, 3yrs / 37500 mile free servicing with this car, saving, silver, 9000 miles, £12995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 2.0 DI-D GS4 4dr "Delivery Miles Only", gk08nws, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, immobiliser, head restraints, heated seats, leather seats, navigation system, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, remote locking, side airbags, traction control. insurance group:9, massive savings of over, red, 100 miles, £15995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, Il 2.0 DI-DC Warrior "Leather**" 5dr, ly08vvn, bluetooth, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather upholstery, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, multi function steering wheel, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags. insurance group:11, black, 7800 miles, £17895, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER, Il 2.0 DI-DC Diamond 5dr "Delivery Miles Only", gk09nwa, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, climate control, anti theft system, central locking, electric sunroof, electrically adjustable seats, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, heated seats, leather seats, leather upholstery, locking wheel nuts, multi function steering wheel, navigation system, park distance control, radio/cd, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, sunroof, traction control. insurance group:12, savings of, silver, 100 miles, £23995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

107, 1.0 Sport XS 3dr, g07tuv, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric windows, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:1, black, 9800 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 Urban 3dr, gk57vxm, abs, adjustable seats, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric windows, immobiliser, head restraints, passenger airbag, remote locking, side airbags. insurance group:3, blue, 4587 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, 1.2 16V Dynamique 3dr [AC], g55gssy, silver, 14615 miles, £5495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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FORTWO coupé passion, 2006, sugar candy pink, 7262 miles, £6999, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

FORTWO coupé passion, 2008, blue metallic, 7400 miles, £7990, Maidstone, 0845 481 6488 (TRADE)

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COROLLA, 1.4 D-4D Colour Collection 3dr, gv06nvo, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air con, alloy, driver airbag, folding rear seats, side airbags. insurance group:5, car reduced was, silver, 33000 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

YARIS, 1.0 VVT-I Colour Collection 3dr, ix5xssj, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:2, silver, 26000 miles, £5495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

CORSA, 1.4i 16V SXi 5dr Auto [AC], vn07ons, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, sports seats. insurance group:4, black, 15000 miles, £8995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.2i 16V SXi+ [80] 3dr, lv07nmn, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, metallic paintwork, power assisted steering, radio, side airbags. insurance group:3, red, 24500 miles, £6995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

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Deposit allowance - paid by Ford	£1,000
Balance to finance	£9,799.30
24 monthly payments	£237.84
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Total amount payable	£14,576.86
	3.9% APR



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Inc Metallic MRRP £26,515

Cash price	£19,999
Deposit	£4,999.70
Deposit allowance - paid by Ford	£1,000
Balance to finance	£13,999.30
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**CARDY**

Purelabs rises to Kent Innovation Challenge

By **MATT BALDWIN**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT'S brightest entrepreneurial company has been found.

Maidstone-based Purelabs has beaten more than 70 other firms to claim the £20,000 prize in the 2009 Kent Innovation Challenge.

The cash was awarded to Jon Barrett of Purelabs for its innovative publishing product, called Intelligent Flatplan, at a gala dinner at the Kent 2020 Vision business exhibition last week.

It offers magazine and newspaper publishers the opportunity to replace paper, spreadsheet or DTP-based flatplans with a web-based planning system.

Every user of the publishing team can see the same view, wherever they are in the world and irrespective of whether they are using a PC or an Apple Mac.

Paul Walsh, chairman of the judging panel, said: "Jon and the Purelabs team have identified a real gap in the market and devised an excellent solution that will help publishers around the world.

"This year's competition was extremely tough and Purelabs is a worthy winner. All the judges wish it every success."

Jon and Michelle Barrett, who run Purelabs, devised Intelligent Flatplan after spotting a gap in the market for an IT solution to serve their own publishing business.



WINNER: Jon Barrett is flanked by 2020 Vision guest speaker Kriss Akabusi and Tim Bentley of Kent Innovation Challenge

Mr Barrett said: "We researched the market thoroughly but there was nothing to suit our needs so we developed a prototype and took it to the trade show Publishing Expo in February, 2008.

"We were inundated with requests for information. This gave us the confirmation we needed that there would be a demand.

"And this really is a Kent innovation, as it was conceived, designed and executed in the county. Winning the competition means we can accelerate the full commercialisation over the next six months. We have already begun to

generate export opportunities."

In addition to the £20,000 cash prize it will also receive:

- Free rent for a year at the Sittingbourne Enterprise Hub at the Kent Science Park
- Legal support from Vertex Law to the value of £5,000
- Business coaching from Skills for Business to the value of £6,000
- Filming and production of a corporate video to the value of £5,000 from Lavender Blue Media
- Two years' free membership of the Confederation of British Industry
- Public relations advice to the value of £1,500 from Coast Communications

The other finalists were: Luethi Enterprise, low-cost wind turbines for use in developing countries; Luberation Laboratory, organic medical lubricants; Galvin Automotive, energy efficiency in internal combustion engines; and Cantium Energy, combined heat and power energy supplies.

Amanda Lucas, of Sittingbourne Enterprise Hub and organiser of the judging panel, said: "Innovation is alive and well in Kent. Over the last four years we have had hundreds of hopefuls accept the Kent Innovation Challenge."

The Kent Innovation Challenge is supported by KOS Media, Seeda, the Sittingbourne, Medway and Canterbury Enterprise Hubs, KCC, Kent Science Park, Business Link Kent, Vertex Law, NatWest, Coast Communications, Lavender Blue Media, the University of Greenwich and the University of Kent.

Enterprising hotspots and talent ready to step up

THE search is on to find the most enterprising location in the South East with the launch of the Enterprising Britain 2009 competition.

The South East England Development Agency (Seeda) says Lord Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, is calling for hotspots of innovation – locations tackling the recession by creating jobs, boosting local businesses and bringing on entrepreneurial talent – to step up.

The Enterprising Britain competition is a key part of a Government drive to create the right conditions for enterprise across the country.

Last year Millbrook Technology Campus in Southampton was named the most enterprising place in the South East and went through to compete in the national competition.

This year, organisers want businesses-led projects which have transformed local communities to enter.

Helen Cook, project manager at Seeda, said: "Now more than ever, we need to showcase examples of how communities from across the South East are working together to encourage and support business."

The deadline for entries is April 30 and the winner will be announced in October. To register interest or to find out more, email helencook@seeda.co.uk.

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Essential to insure vacant premises



BAD BREAK: Empty offices can be a target for thieves and vandals

LANDLORDS whose commercial property becomes vacant when tenants depart are being warned to make sure they have proper insurance cover, **writes KOS Media Business Editor Tony Patey.**

This could avoid any potential claim being refused says Otford-based Belmont International, a large independent insurance broker.

Companies collapsing because of the recession are leaving more commercial property vacant than for many years. At the end of 2008, about 13 per cent of all commercial property in the UK lay empty, up from 10 per cent in March, 2007.

Belmont says unoccupied premises are more vulnerable to theft and malicious damage, arson attacks, graffiti and are a magnet for antisocial

behaviour. There's also the increased risk of burst pipes and flooding going unnoticed.

In fact, with the rising risk of arson, some insurers are refusing to cover unoccupied buildings and those who do provide cover for long-term vacant properties are increasingly asking for substantially higher premiums and excesses.

David Armstrong, Belmont's associate director, said: "Managing an empty property needs a bit of thought and the more you can do to avert a loss the better. But first it is essential that you inform your insurer."

"Even if the unoccupied property is just one property in many that you are insuring, the others being occupied, insurers expect to be told and will expect to apply different insurance terms and conditions."

Policy documents will also come with a list of conditions and warranties that must be adhered to if a claim is to be valid.

Conditions of insurance may include regular inspections of the empty property and the repair of any damage, such as a broken window. A weekly visit to the property is generally sufficient, or appoint a security firm to monitor the property.

To avoid fire hazards, ensure any areas adjacent to the property are clear of rubbish, in particular combustible material. Owners should also redirect any post and seal up the letterbox to avoid the build up of junk mail, which presents a fire risk.

It is also advisable to drain down the heating system and turn off the water supply at the stopcock, as well as switching off the electrics, unless the weather is cold.



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Group closing the skills gap

KEVIN Bennett, who works for national firm BAM Nuttall, with offices in Tunbridge Wells, is set to chair the newly-formed South East Construction Skills group, after a merger between the Skills Forum and the area advisory committee.

The group will influence national construction policy and priorities by providing advice and support to Construction Skills' strategic partnership panel.

It will consider forecast data about skills needs and training provision, as well as providing recommendations about construction qualifications.

Mr Bennett is training manager for his firm, and has worked in the construction industry for more than 20 years.

He said: "The group allows contractors and other stakeholders to influence Construction Skills, the sector skills council for the construction industry."

"This will ensure the regional and national sector skills agreements are accurate, and implemented in good time and with shareholder funding to meet the skills gaps."

"It means we train the appropriate numbers with the appropriate skills, leading to a sustainable future."

"We will only hit the nail on the head if contractors lead these forums, bringing stakeholders together to meet the needs of our industry."

He will hold the position for a minimum of three years and will be joined by up to 21 other professionals on the group.



NEW ROLE: Kevin Bennett

All aboard for rail expansion

EVEN young companies are eager to use tried and tested ways of raising finance in difficult economic times, as four-month-old Civil Rail Solutions, a railway labour contractor, has found.

The Ashford-based outfit is now on track for rapid growth after negotiating a funding line from Cattles Invoice Finance, which offers factoring services – money against invoices – which gives a firm steady cash flow.

The company was set up by entrepreneur Mark Mason, who has 10 years' experience in railway engineering, and it supplies skilled labourers to the railway industry, holds contracts with 25 skilled workers and employs three people at its office.

The firm aims to capitalise on government plans for widespread rail expansion with the help of Cattles Invoice Finance. Network Rail recently accepted a £28.5 billion budget, for 2009 to 2014, to spend on improving Britain's rail infrastructure.

The company is expected to become fully accredited with Link-up, the UK rail industry supplier qualification scheme, in May.

Mr Mason said: "The new funding will give me a greater degree of flexibility in running my business and will enable us to respond to greater demand for our services and take on larger contracts."



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County Hall's women urged to aim higher

KENT County Council has hired a leadership development firm to encourage more women managers into top jobs.

Coaching and leadership development firm Unlimited Potential, based in Tunbridge Wells, will run a five-day Women's Leadership Programme for 12 managers who have already been picked.

A two-day residential component will take place at Tunbridge Wells and there will be three individual days in May at KCC.

Covering subjects such as the skills required to be a good leader, negotiation techniques, personal branding, business etiquette and communication, the course aims to support

By **TONY PATEY**

tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

and develop individuals interested in taking the next step on the career ladder.

The women, who come from a variety of disciplines and directorates including adult services, children and families, and chief executive, were selected because they showed leadership potential.

Programme director Peggy Lawlor, who leads on management and development at KCC, said: "Most of the top jobs in the council are still held by men. There is a perception that women may be reluctant to apply for roles with a strategic responsibility because they lack confidence, or they may make personal



choices not to progress based on work demands and the impact that may have on family and personal life.

"The training is aimed at tooling women with the skills to be great leaders, to foster confidence in their own abilities and encourage career and personal development.

"We'll use this opportunity to find out why so few women do apply for the top jobs by surveying participants on the key reasons that may be holding them back. We will also help them draw up career action plans. Our hope is that more women will apply for the senior roles as a result." Unlimited Potential was established in 2004 and offers a range of coaching programmes from group workshops and seminars to one-to-one sessions and courses.

Safety first when avoiding claims

HEALTH and safety issues are recession-proof when it comes to doing business – and if, as now, a firm is trying to conserve cash then the last thing it wants is a claim against it.

This spells work for health and safety services company SafetyCO UK, which is based near Sevenoaks but has provided services as far away as Scotland, Newcastle and the Midlands.

It's a firm that's been steadily growing over the last eight years and is now offering a full range of services to a variety of construction clients, including utilities contractors, developers, plant hire companies, principal contractors and trade contractors.

Project Zero office

A NATIONAL financial 'firefighter' firm which sorts out mis-sold payment protection insurance on loans, finance and credit cards has opened its first Kent office in Ramsgate.

Teesside-based debt management company Project Zero said it had been "overwhelmed" by demand for its services in the last 18 months.

In fact, business is growing so fast the firm hopes to have 25 offices throughout England before the end of the year.

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talkingbusiness

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tipping the balance in your firm's favour

After 28 years in the banking business **Andy Bate** wanted to set up on his own. His CV includes two-and-a-half decades with Lloyds and then Clydesdale Corporate Banking – now he's on the other side of the desk. Bankers are not high in the popularity stakes at the moment, but Mr Bate might be a person you would like to meet. He advises businesses on how to approach their banks and how to monitor their financial progress – a key survival factor. By understanding both sides of business and banking, he's in a unique position to help a firm tip the balance in its favour and keep their business on the right track. Hence the name of his company name, Fulcrum Business Strategies, based in Blean, near Canterbury. Technically, he's a freelance performance and strategy manager, with company clients typically with a turnover of between £300,000 and £5 million a year who may not have a financial director on the payroll. He spoke to Business Editor Tony Patey.



Q Why did you set up on your own and how did you do it?

A Many reasons, but self-satisfaction and being my own boss are the main drivers. Having identified the common gap in many businesses some years ago, the seed was sown to help them improve performance and achieve their goals, and at the same time develop closer relationships with their bank and accountant.

Establishing my own company would eventually provide job options for my children, but I also wanted to be my own boss and help business owners achieve their full potential, using my knowledge and experience.

With the economic situation, I felt there was no better time – nor greater need – for strategy and performance management within small and medium-size enterprises.

I can reassure my clients' bankers that robust measures are in place and effective controls being administered, so there is more likelihood of their support.

Q How do you operate?

A After an initial meeting to understand a business, I provide a summary of identified areas for further consideration. A second meeting would consist of a day's examination of working processes and financial appraisal, resulting in a comprehensive report to be used to formulate an action plan around key success factors.

Thereafter, I would be on hand as often as necessary, provide monthly reviews, help manage through the key performance indicators and help put together borrowing applications and representation of the business in front of its bankers.

Other parts of my company look at overhead reduction, stock and credit control, review of insurance to ensure correct cover and correct price, and training support. I operate in those areas best known to me: east Kent and the north Kent coast, through to the Thames Gateway.

Q How successful has it been?

A It's early days, but in these economic conditions there has never been a stronger need to focus on performance and to have a robust strategy, giving banks confidence to continue their support.

Many businesses will not require a full-time finance or commercial director, nor wish to be adding a £60,000-plus overhead. I can get involved and mentor a business at probably less than one per cent of turnover, but aim to generate considerably more profit for the client from activities such as repricing, cost control, credit control, marketing, operational efficiency, training and so on.

Q Any tips for fellow businesspeople?

A You commit your life to running your business, to have a comfortable lifestyle, provide for your family, and make provision for retirement. The business may have started as a one-man band and has grown. First question to be asked is: Was the growth beneficial to you? Taking on staff and larger contracts require close control and responsibility, which can easily distract you from what you do best. Greater turnover does not guarantee larger profit. Employ a third party to review your business and get involved to help you focus on achieving your goals.

Q Outside interests?

A Golf and remote-control car racing.

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By **LIZ RULE**
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RECENTLY I have been made aware of a number of cases that concern me about the advice given by banks.

As we are all aware, interest rates have fallen through the floor and savers are receiving far less interest. For many, this will have affected their standard of living.

A few canny investors may have locked into a one or two-year deal just as interest rates started reducing and may still be receiving five or six per cent. But for others, their interest rate will have tracked the reductions in the Bank of England base rate.

Many people refer to these guaranteed deposit rates as 'bonds'. The phrase: "I'm lucky - I locked into a two-year bond at five per cent", is sure to have been heard by many in recent months.

The problem is, there is another type of bond. An investment bond is a tax wrapper (a bit like an ISA but with fewer advantages) and allows an investor to withdraw up to five per cent per annum of the original investment, and for basic rate taxpayers there is no need to declare this on a tax return. Some advisers have, unfortunately, been known to refer to this as "tax-free income".

So I am sure many people have been offered a 'bond' in the last year, paying a tax-free income of five per cent - and they will have been pleased to access such a product.

The problem is, most investment bonds will invest in stocks and shares. This means the value can go down as well as up - and over the last year it is almost certainly down.

For investors who have been sold a 'bond', which they may have thought was a deposit account, receiving a statement showing the value has dropped by 30 per cent is going to be a shock. So if you have bought a 'bond' from a bank, please make sure it is what you think it is.

Millions invested in training and skills

PEOPLE across the South East are benefiting from £16.5 million of Government investment in skills and training to help them get and keep jobs during the downturn, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills John Denham said this week.

Training and skills development are high on business agendas - they will be crucial for catching the economic upturn when it comes - and the Government has made £6.5m available for people who have lost, or fear they may lose, their jobs.

It has also invested £10m to help people who have been unemployed for more than six months access skills and training to help them back into work.

The funding is part of the £4.5 billion the Government is spending on adult skills nationally and will be used to ensure more people can get the benefits of training.

Mr Denham said: "We know that people whose skills are up to date are more likely to find a good job,

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

and that employers with well-trained staff do better than those that don't invest in the skills of their workforce."

A record number of people have already gained vocation qualifications through the Government's Train to Gain programme, covering a range of skills and training. In the South East the number of people gaining work-related training increased from 6,200 in 2006-07 to 20,100 in 2007-08.

Kent saw the highest number of Train to Gain qualifications in the region last year, with 5,000, compared with 1,500 the year before.

The service has been made more flexible and responsive, and small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) will be top priority for its funds.

Rules have been relaxed so SMEs can get funding for short courses in business-critical areas, and more funding for qualifications even when employees already have a qualification at that level.



TRAIN TO GAIN: John Denham

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BUPA	£43.30
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FRIENDS PRVNT	£44.13
LEGAL & GENERAL	£44.45
AXA	£45.25

COUPLE AGED 35

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FRIENDS PRVNT	£88.16
ZURICH	£88.64
AXA	£89.47
AEGON SE	£90.39

COUPLE AGED 30

NORWICH UNION	£57.91
FRIENDS PRVNT	£60.36
BUPA	£60.80
AXA	£61.72
PRUPROTECT	£61.89

COUPLE AGED 40

ZURICH	£136.65
AXA	£137.12
FRIENDS PRVNT	£137.20
SCOT PRVNT	£146.07
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USED**

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type R%: Rate percentage L: Loan U: Until
OD: Other details

FIXED

PRINCIPALITY

RT: FIXED R%: 4.74% L: 75% U: 31/03/2012

OD: £1,339

FIRST ACTIVE RBS

RT: FIXED R%: 3.79% L: 75% U: 30/06/2011

OD: £1,029

WOOLWICH

RT: FIXED R%: 4.39% L: 70% U: 30/04/2012

OD: £1,325

MARSDEN

RT: FIXED R%: 3.54% L: 70% U: 30/04/2011

OD: £1,123

OTHER

ALLIANCE AND LEICESTER

RT: TRACKER R%: 2.99% L: 75% U: 2 YEARS

OD: £2,310

ABBEY

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.39% L: 75% U: 3 YEARS

OD: £1,030

MARSDEN

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.25% L: 70% U: 30/04/2011

OD: £1,123

NATIONWIDE

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.38% L: 75% U: 3 YEARS

OD: £1,015

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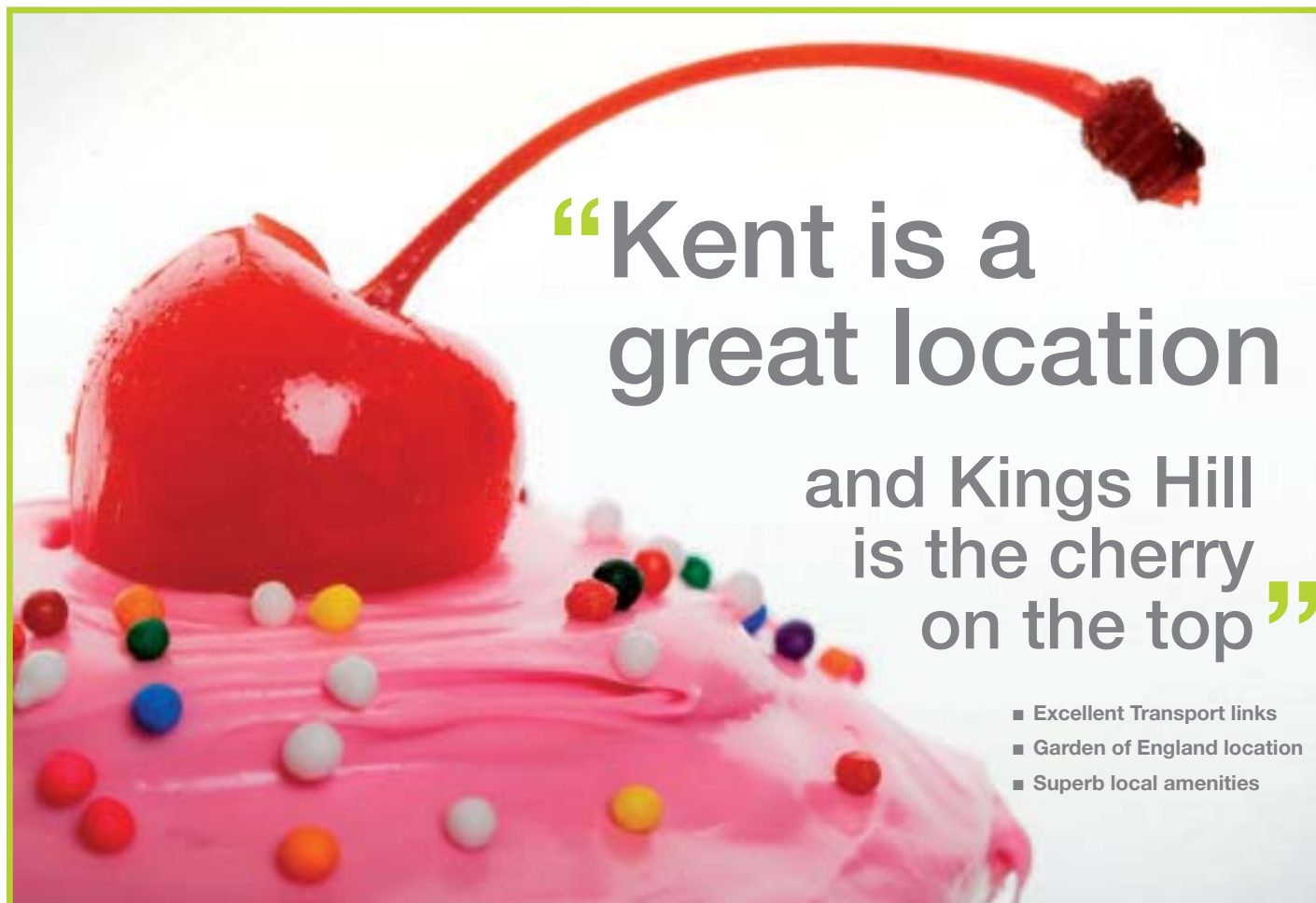
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Focus on house building

Why this might be just the right time to buy

By **TONY PATEY**

tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

CONFUSING signals have been coming out of the home-buying market over the last fortnight but one thing's for sure, there are good investment opportunities out there and now might be the right time to buy.

A combination of low house prices and low interest returns on savings mean that anyone with any spare cash – elderly relatives, for example – might consider helping out youngsters wanting to get on the property ladder.

They shouldn't expect a quick return on their cash, but within five to 10 years they will almost certainly see a very reasonable return on their investment.

Reading the runes in the market right now is a minefield. Mortgages were up a fifth in February, but even the big lenders can't agree what's happening to prices – Nationwide recently announced positive news, Halifax not so positive.

'Developers say that enquiries and demand are definitely returning'

But, and this is important, the big boys deal with national and wide regional figures. Inside those regions there are pockets of sometimes high activity, for example, at Kings Hill, West Malling.

Simon Rubinsohn, chief economist at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), said: "It would be premature to assume house prices have bottomed out."

"We are, however, more confident that the low point in terms of transaction activity has now been seen and that a greater level of buyer interest will be underpinned by the drop in both interest rates and house prices."

Commuters will see journey times from Kent in tens of minutes soon when fast domestic services begin and they could also see some good home-buying opportunities in areas within striking distance of the Channel Tunnel rail link stations at Ebbsfleet and Ashford.

Some experts say the Ebbsfleet area alone could see house prices rocket by more than £30,000, about 14 per cent of current values.

This could have a massive ripple effect on prices in nearby areas, such as Kings Hill.

Local estate agents are not just talking the talk when they say people should buy now to



TO THE FORE: Kings Hill offers all the advantages of a modern development in the heart of Kent, including comfortable homes (right) and amenities such as the golf club (above)

Case study of a new development

KINGS HILL is a modern community that has seen residential property development since 1994. Ongoing development has allowed the village, near West Malling, to grow in a planned way.

Ten years of Kings Hill sales show that while 2007 was exceptional in terms of the number of houses sold, 2008 has been on trend, which shows a regular and sustainable increase in development.

The average for the last 10 years was 134 homes, and in 2008 the developers sold 125 – 95 per cent of the average.

- Kings Hill is a successful and established 'complete' village – homes, offices, retail, schools, leisure facilities, green space, bus services, etc.

- Kings Hill already has architectural credibility and includes aspirational and attractive housing that sells well relative to other locations with only selected developers

- Thriving village centre and facilities, including the country park, David Lloyd centre and cricket pitch.

- Good transport links – London, Europe.
- Heritage – Kent design style.

reap long-term benefits.

Developers recently froze a lot of their projects, so when the market does turn up, properties that are available will soon be snapped up.

Then demand will outweigh supply, with the inevitable result that prices will rise in areas such as Ebbsfleet and add to the effect of existing demand for good market town property that has already supported Kent prices.

But this will benefit areas like Kings Hill, where residential house-building has continued during the downturn and homes are available now. Even before the credit squeeze there was a shortage of homes due to the increase in the number of households and it was demand

for good market town property that supported the prices in so many Kent towns. Developers say enquiries and demand are definitely returning, and prospective purchasers are really thinking about where and what they are buying. One local developer reports that outright buying has suddenly returned after a long period of part-exchanging.

The block on the housing market at the moment is the availability of credit. Current figures show that for the fifth quarter in succession the financial industry is expecting less credit to be available in the coming quarter.

This is severely limiting any efforts to meet the rising demand which is being seen in the

market. Monthly mortgage repayments are historically low, making mortgages a bargain at the moment, and they compare very favourably with renting.

Reports from the industry say that new buyer enquiries are at their best levels since 2006, which is virtually the best ever.

At some stage – probably fairly soon given that the banks are under severe pressure to start pumping out funds again, prudently this time round – credit will be available again.

Meantime, non-traditional sources of home-buying cash might well be tapped. For example, elderly relatives sitting on mini money-mountains – getting returns of next to nothing in the usual money markets – might consider helping their youngsters get on the ladder.

Buyers may be refocusing on the long-established so-called 'golden rules' of house buying, such as reflection of traditional design and local character, high quality and specification, good local transport and road/rail links, and locating in a popular area with rising population with good schools, low crime, a feeling of community and good local services.



MAIDEN VICTORY: Motorbase Performance

Motorbase storm to 'emotional' first win

MOTORBASE Performance boss David Bartrum described clinching the team's maiden victory in the British Touring Car Championship as "emotional".

The Wrotham-based independent team took on championship heavyweights Vauxhall and came home with a memorable victory in race two with Rob Collard at the wheel.

It was an agonising race for the team as Collard was forced to wait until the penultimate lap to take the lead by passing Colin Turkington in a robust move. The experienced racer cruised across the line to record a fairytale win just a few miles away from the team's base.

Motorbase thought they had secured another win in the final race of the day as Jonathan Adam took the chequered flag. However, he was demoted to second place following an illegal overtaking move on Jason Plato.

The win in race two sparked wild celebrations in the pit lane and owner Bartrum, who created the team five years ago, hopes it will be the first of many.

He said: "It was a fantastic way to start the season for us. It meant so much to me to secure our first win at our home circuit, it was a really emotional moment for all of the team."

"Both Rob and Jonathan were outstanding. We knew we could be fast at Brands and we've set a standard for ourselves for the rest of the year. We want to be right up at the front again in every round."

Motorbase will travel to Thruxton in Hampshire for the second meeting of the season on April 26.

Jay's tough opener

DRIVER Jay Bridger will begin his assault on the British Formula 3 International Series at Oulton Park this weekend.

The driver, from Horsmonden near Tonbridge, is expecting a tough opening round at the Cheshire circuit after stepping up to the full international series with new team, West-Tec racing. Bridger, who clinched the national class championship last year, is looking forward to the challenge.

He said: "It is going to be difficult as we have got a new car and have not had an awful lot of testing, but every time we go out we are making up more time. My aim is to come away with a decent points finish and stay in contention with the leaders."



Liam out to mash Swede at Lydden

By TOM HOWARD

RISING Kent rallycross star Liam Doran believes he has what it takes to battle with some of the best drivers at the European Rallycross Championship at Lydden Hill.

The Dover circuit plays host to the opening round of the championship and will see some of the most closely fought racing on the motorsport calendar, with cars which can out-accelerate a Formula One car.

It will be the first time Lydden has hosted the event since 1996 and Sittingbourne racer Doran, who leads the British Rallycross Championship, is tipped as an outside favourite for the event. The 22-year-old believes he has the chance to put himself on the map.

Final

He said: "Hopefully the crowds will turn out in force for me as I am a local driver and one of the quicker ones for the UK so I am going to put it to the European guys."

"I know the place well but I have not got an awful lot of experience in the car. I am going to have to push that bit harder to get a good result. If I can get to a final I would be more than happy with that."

The target in Doran's sight is the sport's most successful driver, Sweden's 14-time European champion Kenneth Hanson.



YOUNG GUN: Liam Doran (top) hopes to give 14-time European Rallycross champion Kenneth Hanson (above) of Sweden a run for his money at Lydden on Monday

Hanson will be competing in a Citroen C4, which is more powerful than the version raced by five-time World Rally champion Sebastien Loeb. The 48-year-old is looking forward to defending his title and is one of a handful of European drivers to have raced at Lydden.

Hanson said: "I feel very hungry going into the event. It has been a very long time since we have been at Lydden. It is great to be back and the old memories have come flooding back."

"I think it is better to be defending a title, I don't know why, but I feel more confident when I am the champion."

Lydden Hill managing director Amy Doran, who stepped in to run the circuit two years ago, is still pinching herself con-

sidering how close the circuit came to closure in 2007.

She admitted it will be a huge moment for everyone involved when the first race is completed and believes the circuit is set for a strong future with the series.

She said: "We are hoping to attract around 20,000 people. It is a big comeback with some of the best drivers in Europe as well as drivers from Kent."

"If everything goes according to plan, then we should be hosting it for the next two to three years. We have been put as round one for a reason as we are the circuit the rest have got to compare themselves with."

"We are here to set the standards and the FIA are hoping the other circuits can follow our lead."



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Medway Dragons in a league of their own

EXCLUSIVE

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

THE head coach of the south's only top-flight rugby league side has praised a Kent club for their commitment to the sport.

Medway Dragons are only just beginning their second season, but with 150 members across eight youth teams, they are already the biggest club in the South East and plan to launch a senior side in 2011.

The teams enjoyed success in their debut season, recording impressive results against the region's established names, while their most talented individuals gained international recognition.

Several are already in the academy of Super League team Harlequins. Their coach Brian McDermott told Kent on Sunday he continues to be impressed by the progress made by the fledgling club.

Enthusiasm

He said: "It's breathtaking what they've done and the amount of work that goes on. The one thing that strikes me every time I come here is that there's just an incredible drive about the place.

"Although we are down south this would challenge any club up north, any amateur club which has been there for 100 years in terms of enthusiasm and drive and just people willing to make rugby league a well-played sport."

The club's youngsters received an early Easter treat this week when Quins' first-team squad trained at the Dragons' Garrison Stadium in Gillingham on Tuesday. Dozens of budding players turned out to watch the professionals go through their paces in the final workout before Thursday's Super League game against Catalan Dragons.

Lawrence Chittil was one of two Dragons to attend an England training camp last season



POPULAR: Rugby league club Medway Dragons have amassed 150 members across eight youth teams in just two seasons and plans are afoot to launch a senior side in 2011



EASTER TREAT: Super League team Harlequins' first-team visited the Medway Dragons' Garrison Stadium on Tuesday to take part in a specially arranged training session

and was impressed to see the players up close.

He said: "It's really good because it's what you aspire to be so it's great to see their standards. You watch the sort of lines they run and their vision, you learn so much from watching them train."

The day was organised by Martin Coyd, the Dragons' director of rugby league. He originally

planned to take the club's coaches up to Quins' training ground to learn from the London club's coaches, but was delighted with the change to the Garrison.

He said: "To see the guys who are the stars on the TV, four of whom played in the World Cup, on our pitch using our facilities is fantastic. It's real recognition for our club."



Picture: ADY KERRY

FUTURE: New academy hopes to develop top hockey players like Cathy-Gilliat Smith

Hockey academy reaping rewards

A PIONEERING approach to coaching hockey to young players in Kent is already paying dividends, according to one of the driving forces behind the scheme.

Last summer, the English Hockey Association announced wholesale changes to the way the game would be taught to young players, starting from the 2009-10 season.

Kent, however, decided to begin the programme a year early, instigating five development centres in Sittingbourne, Maidstone, Bexley, Medway, Sevenoaks and Canterbury.

After three months of coaching and analysis, the most promising players were selected to become part of the Kent Academy side, based at Maidstone Hockey Club, under the tutelage of Canterbury and England player Cathy Gilliat-Smith, who is the Academy's junior co-ordinator.

Maidstone's Mike Evans says the results of the new system have been immediately apparent. "Certainly coaches and parents have remarked on massive improvements," he said.

"In terms of the quality of hockey education, the kids are now getting two hours every Sunday and in match situations.

"It's gone very well, although it's been a challenge to organise everything alongside club and school fixtures, but we wanted to do it a season early to hit the ground running."

The Academy season ends today, with a Kent under-13 side taking on Dutch opponents MHC Soest at Maidstone's Armstrong Road ground.

Dani wants to get back on course



Picture: TRISTAN JONES/LET

RECOVERED: Golfer Dani Masters is fit again but is struggling to get into tournaments

DANI Masters is returning to full fitness for the first time in more than a year, but is now faced with a different problem – a lack of tournaments to play in.

The 26-year-old endured an injury-plagued 2008 which saw her fail to win enough prize money to keep her place on the Ladies European Tour.

Three months on from missing out in Qualifying School, her last chance to win a place on Tour, Masters has recovered from her problematic back injury. Pain free for the first time since the start of last year she is relishing the chance to return, but with no automatic exemption she must wait for wildcard invitations to events before she can begin her comeback.

"It's really annoying because I have never struggled to keep my card and I was improving every year," she said. "All of a sudden not to have my card because of injury makes it worse than before I became professional. I've got the tools

to do it now, but no tournaments to play in. It's hard but I have to be patient."

The Maidstone golfer did receive an invitation to play at the Turkish Ladies Open later this month, but her joy was short-lived as the tournament was withdrawn from the calendar due to financial reasons.

The next event is the Swiss Open in May. A good start to the season is critical to Masters' hopes of winning back her card as a good finish in Switzerland would guarantee entry into the next tournament, but first she must wait for an invitation.

Despite the problems Masters remains upbeat about her injury woes and believes she will come back stronger.

She said: "The silver lining is I'm fortunate enough to learn from it and hopefully I have years and years of golf left in me. I'm starting to play much better and get my confidence back. I just hope I can get back into the first few events to build some momentum."

CANTERBURY GOLF DAY



Martin Saggars Canterbury Golf Day takes place on **Tuesday 12th May, 2009** at The Canterbury Golf Club.

There is a maximum of 20 teams of four on a first come first serve basis. The cost of the day is £260.00 per team (£65.00 per person). Please show your support for Martin in what is set to be a fantastic golf day.

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- * Beat the Pro
- * Putting competition
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READY: Stuart Clark joins Kent next week

Clark fighting fit after injury

STUART Clark has stepped up his preparations for the county season and shown encouraging signs that he is over a right elbow injury that saw him miss the Test series with South Africa, **writes Glenn Pearson.**

Kent's new overseas signing until June, missed Australia's series both home and away against South Africa after undergoing surgery on an elbow injury at the end of last year.

The 33-year-old seamer is keen to prove his fitness with Kent ahead of the Ashes this summer – a move that courted criticism from the England and Wales Cricket Board – and is set to arrive in the county at the end of next week.

Kent coach Simon Willis told Kent on Sunday: "He has been playing for New South Wales at the end of their season and has been playing club cricket on Saturdays and he says he is 100 per cent. He will have a medical when he arrives just to check everything is okay.

"He has been in touch regularly to see how we are doing and is keen to give us a good start against Northants."

Kent vice-captain, Martin van Jaarsveld, has also welcomed Clark's signing.

He said: "He is a quality bowler and we are going to miss Ryan McLaren so we need someone to lead our bowling and he is just the man to do it. Just because he is coming back from injury, club's are going to need to sign the best available players to strengthen their squad and if it means it has to be an Australian who might play later in the Ashes, then so be it."

Van delays op

Vice-captain's return boost for injury-hit Kent ahead of the new season

By **GLENN PEARSON**

MARTIN van Jaarsveld has delayed surgery to his dislocated shoulder to ensure he stands a chance of being fit for the start of the season for Kent.

The South African made a shock return to action on Wednesday, hitting an unbeaten 98 in a pre-season friendly against Northamptonshire at St Lawrence.

It was feared the 34-year-old may miss a substantial part of the summer for Kent, having dislocated his shoulder fielding for South African state side Titans in February.

The decision to hold off surgery will come as a big boost to Kent ahead of the new season, who have had their preparations hindered with injuries to bowlers Amjad Khan, Robbie Joseph and Warren Lee, while director of cricket, Graham Ford, is still awaiting a visa to be allowed entrance to this country.

Kent's vice-captain, who may be called to skipper the side at some stage during the season should Rob Key be included in England's World Twenty20 side, knows there's a risk involved in not having surgery, but wants to give himself every opportunity to play this summer.

He told Kent on Sunday: "The problem with surgery is that I would have been out for six months which would have meant I wouldn't have been able to play for Kent for the first four months of the season.

"Even if they wanted to take a look at the tendon, that's 20 weeks so from that point of view, we made a decision that we would rather not have surgery and see if I can strengthen it up and get through it. If I still struggle I can still go

back to surgery, but the trouble if you go into theatre is that you can't go back after there."

The PCA Player of the Year for 2008 hopes strength and conditioning work with club physio Nimmo Reid will help keep the injury from flaring up during the season and feels that a decision on whether he can play in the opening County Championship game against Northamptonshire on April 21 might be left until the last minute.

"It felt really good before I flew back from South Africa, then I tweaked it on the air-plane trying to catch my little girl," he said.

"The amount that I am doing with it is increasing and I still need to strengthen it, but I think I have probably done too much so we are just going to monitor from here on and see where I'm at.

Aggravated

"It's pretty tender to be honest. It's not too bad batting-wise it's more fielding, but having spent time in the middle, which is nice, I don't know if I've aggravated it, but hopefully with a bit of physio and rest and if we manage it right, it should be okay."

Coach Simon Willis said having van Jaarsveld available for the start of the season would be a massive boost for the club.

He said: "Knowing the man as I do, he is the ultimate professional and was always going to give himself the best chance of getting here on day one. He was itching to have a bat and certainly hasn't lost any of his ability.

"He is a massive player for us and was our leading run scorer in all forms of the game last year. To have him ready would be a massive boost for everybody, not only as a player, but as a guy in the dressing room because he is a leader and certainly from a coaching perspective, we value his input massively."



SHOCK RETURN:
Martin van Jaarsveld
hit 98 in friendly
Picture: ADY KERRY



BIG EFFORT: Tom Solesbury competes at the British trials today

Rower Tom puts heart and Sole into his quest for Olympic place

THE battle to represent Great Britain's rowing team at the London Olympics begins in earnest today with a Kent rower seeking to stake an early claim for a place in the squad.

Tom Solesbury, from Farnborough, near Orpington, races in the final stage of the British trials which get under way today. Results from the two-day trials will determine who gets a place in the senior squad for the 2009 season, which begins the new four-year cycle building up to London 2012.

The 28-year-old has been a part of the elite squad since 2005, winning a bronze medal in the World Championships two years ago. He has also had a taste of competing at the Olympics, finishing 13th in the men's pairs in Beijing last summer.

The post-Olympic year often sees big changes in the team, with opportunities for younger rowers following the retirement of more experienced competitors after Beijing.

Solesbury has already enjoyed suc-

cess this season as part of the Oxford crew victorious in the Boat Race last month.

The trials which begin in Hazewinkel, Belgium, this morning, mark the last round of a process which began in September and continued throughout the winter. Solesbury is one of 19 men competing in the single sculls and will be hoping to come through the time trial and semi-finals today ahead of tomorrow's finals.

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By DAVID PRITCHARD

GILLINGHAM have defended their decision to increase season ticket prices for the next campaign, a move they say is necessary to remain competitive.

This week the club unveiled the price list for next season, with the cheapest season tickets around five per cent more expensive than the current campaign.

If the Gills win promotion at the end of this season the prices will go up, so the club is encouraging supporters to buy before the end of this month to protect themselves from any further increases.

Fans waiting until later in the summer face hikes of up to 10 per cent compared to last season, even before any changes made in the event of promotion back into League One.

Gillingham's chief executive, Mark Jones, told Kent on Sunday the club understood supporters were under pressure during the economic climate, but felt the rises were necessary.

"It's a very difficult equation," he said. "There are clubs who have frozen their prices or reduced them, but we have to put marginal increases or we will be miles out of line."

"To give an example, the energy costs to run Priestfield when I started here a year ago were £6,000-7,000 a month, now it costs £18,000-19,000. Our players' wages are not cheap either. Although these are marginal increases a season ticket is still the cheapest way to watch football."

Message boards

It is a contrast to last season, when the club cut prices by around 10 per cent following relegation and launched a range of incentives. It had the desired effect, with 3,450 fans taking up the offer to maintain the same level of support as the year before.

Season ticket prices are always a thorny issue with supporters.

Increases are never popular with supporters and fansite message boards have been predictably critical of the club's stance.

Alan Liptrott, co-editor of GillsConnect.com, feels the move will make many fans more selective about which games they watch next season, even if the club are promoted.

He said: "It's asking a lot to pay that sort of money in April with little notice. With the way things are economically, I hear more and more people say they will start choosing which games to go to now."

"What worries me is once people start getting out of the habit of going to games it's hard to get them back."

Single tickets will also go up by at least £1 to £23, but the popular season tickets for fans aged 11 and under for £50 will remain unchanged.

Price hike is a necessity for Gills economy

PRIESTFIELD TICKET INCREASE



Cheapest season tickets for existing holders bought this month compared to last season's early purchases:

Rainham End: £300 (up five per cent)
Medway Stand: £310 (up 5 per cent)
Gordon Road Stand: £275 (up 7 per cent)



Cheapest adult season ticket for new customers bought this month compared to 2008-09 early purchases:

Rainham End: £320 (up 11 per cent)
Medway Stand: £325 (up 9 per cent)
Gordon Road Stand: £290 (up 12 per cent)



Cheapest adult buying tickets later in the summer compared to 2008-09 (not including increases with promotion)

Rainham End: £350 (up 9 per cent)
Gordon Road Stand: £320 (up 9 per cent)
Medway Stand: £360 (up 10 per cent)

Picture: ADY KERRY



CHIEF: Mark Jones



Youth cup final for triumphant Kent

KENT under-18s have reached the finals of the FA County Youth Cup for only the third time, after a penalty shoot-out victory over the Isle of Man.

"It's a fantastic achievement to reach the final, particularly because we have a very young side," said KCFA chief executive Keith Masters.

"Some of them will still be available to play for us in next year's competition and one of them is still eligible for the under-16s."

Having seen off Durham 2-1 in the quarter-finals at Faversham's Salters Lane, Kent, managed by Ken Brooke, made the long trek to Douglas for the semi-finals.

With the score 1-1 at the end of 90 minutes extra time was needed. Both sides scored again to make it 2-2 after the additional period, but Kent won 5-4 on penalties.

Masters admitted the team had exceeded expectations.

"We knew when we put the squad together that we had a reasonable side, but I don't think we expected them to get this far," he said.

Kent have reached the final twice before and on both occasions they lost to Liverpool in 1978 and Devon in 1982.

The final will be held at Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium on May 2.

Tickets are available from Gillingham FC, but schools can apply for up to 30 tickets, though the form must be completed and returned to the Gills by April 28.

MVP system for grassroots level

THE days of arguments about who is the best player in your cricket team look to be numbered with the imminent launch of the Most Valuable Player (MVP) system available to amateur clubs.

The Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) introduced the complex scoring system to the county game in 2007, to get a more accurate statistic for each player's contribution to the team.

It was a response to previous statistics, which were felt relied too heavily on individual elements rather than a combination of disciplines.

Now the PCA is planning to make the system open to any clubs or schools which sign up. Scorecards will be analysed and the cumulative points calculated across the season to separate the true match winners from those who only talk a good game.

Kent's Martin van Jaarsveld won the overall MVP title for the county game last season, with team-mate Ryan McLaren finishing third.

See www.kentnews.co.uk in the coming weeks for news of the official launch.

Fleet's site for new is ground rejected

By TOM HOWARD

EBBSFLEET United may have to look for another site for their proposed new stadium after two councils objected to the club's plans.

The Blue Square Premier League club have harboured ambitions of a move away from Stonebridge Road, their home for 62 years, and revealed they had found a site in the Gravesham area last week.

The club released plans to build a new stadium with a capacity between 5,000-8,000 last year, in a project led by a subsidiary group set called Fleet Group Development (FGD).

However, in a statement released by Gravesham Borough Council this week, the site located between the Old A2 and the

Picture: ADY KERRY



HOME: Ebbsfleet have played at Stonebridge Road for 62 years

new A2 has been earmarked for a proposed activity park.

The statement went on to say

that both the council and Kent County Council believes the construction of a football stadium

would reduce the space available for a cycle park, the first stage of the activity park, and are unable to consider the possibility of including a football stadium within the scheme.

Gravesham council leader Cllr Mike Snelling said: "I am fully aware of – and support – the ambitions of the club for a new stadium and I have been engaged in meetings with the club and major landowners for the past two years to find them the sort of site they need in order to thrive, but this site on the A2 sandwich land is not appropriate."

"We are committed to the activity park and this stadium scheme runs counter to that."

Head of FGD Brian Kilcullen declined an opportunity to comment stating that the club are preparing a statement for next week.

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COUNTY DUO IN WAIT FOR VISAS

New border rules delay Kemp and Ford joining Kent squad



DELAYED: Justin Kemp is waiting for the go-ahead to rejoin his Kent team-mates

EXCLUSIVE

By GLENN PEARSON

VISA complications have meant batsman Justin Kemp and director of cricket Graham Ford have been denied a chance to meet up with the Kent squad.

New requirements set by the UK Border Agency mean the South African pair face points-based tests and confirmation from the England and Wales Cricket Board before they are allowed into the country.

The club released a statement in the week declaring that Ford, who has turned down a chance to coach England to remain at Kent, has experienced complications with his visa arrangements, delaying his return to Canterbury. Now, Kent on Sunday understands that fellow South African Justin Kemp's arrival has been delayed which has meant missing the club's pre-season games.

The UK Border Agency has changed its policy for migrants to work in this country which has led to both Kemp and Ford completing tests before they are allowed to join up with the squad.

The club hope Kemp will be on a plane this week allowing him to be available for selection for Kent's opening County Championship game with Northants on April 21.

Ford on the other hand, will have to com-

Ford's door still open for England

GRAHAM Ford has not closed the door on coaching England in the future, despite taking himself out of the running to fill the current vacancy.

Kent's former South Africa coach, 48, (pictured) was believed to be one of the front-runners to take over from Peter Moores, together with temporary coach Andy Flower, but pulled out last month.

Ford felt it wasn't the right time for him, but hasn't turned his back on coaching England in the future.

He said: "The timing wasn't right. It would be a huge honour and is something I'm sure I would have enjoyed but the timing wasn't right. There's lots to be done at Kent but England wouldn't be something I'd rule out in the future."



plete an English test this week, but is confident of joining up with the squad at the end of the week.

Speaking from South Africa, he said: "The whole process has changed from past years which means I now have to get a sponsorship licence which needs to be approved by the ECB. I will also need to do an English literacy test this week and then hopefully I will be allowed to come over."

"This time of the season is really important as it sets you up for the whole season, so to not be a part of it is frustrating and quite disappointing. I'll just have to get up to speed as quickly as possible when I get back."

"I'm in touch with Simon Willis and it appears the preparations have gone well and we have been playing nicely."

"The comforting thing having got to know the players well, is that they are a group that take on the responsibility of their own performance and are mature about how they go about doing their business."

The 48-year-old expects Kemp to join up with the rest of the team this week and admits it's far from the ideal preparation ahead of a season.

Ford added: "Justin might be a phase ahead of me as he has managed to do his English literacy test and I think he is just waiting for approval. He has been playing cricket in Cape Town and I know he has been working hard on his game."

"The frustrating thing is that at the end of the season he suffered a back injury and missed some games, so he is keen to get back. It is a tough one missing pre-season, but the good thing is that he has been playing cricket in South Africa for some time."



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EAST KENT EDITION

ISSN 1477-6766



Gills take stock over PLC status

GILLINGHAM'S latest round of cost-cutting measures will see directors ask shareholders to consider changing the club's status back to a private company.

It registered as a public limited company (PLC) in March, 1999, but with the club not trading on the stock market it wants to switch back to cut costs. The club are holding an Extraordinary General Meeting and if the change goes ahead the official name will change to Gillingham Football Club Ltd.

Typically the move sees the company buying back the shares, but in this case shareholders will retain their status within the new company.

Gills' chief executive Mark Jones said: "It will make no difference to anybody. There are costs involved with being a PLC which would be cut by deregistering. It's being done for adminis-

trative reasons more than anything else and is something that just needs to be done."

PLCs must produce an extensive annual report for their shareholders and hold an Annual General Meeting, which can be expensive. By changing to a private company the club would not be under the same obligations to make as much information publicly available.

It is the latest in a series of cost-cutting measures for Gills, who announced losses of £1.6 million for the year ending in May, 2008. This season they have reduced the number of employees at the club, removed home fans from the Brian Moore Stand to save on policing and briefly suspended manager Mark Stimson's scouting system in December.

• **The meeting at Priestfield will be held on Friday, April 24, beginning at 10.30am.**



BUYBACK? Gillingham were registered as a PLC in 1999 Picture: IGOR KUPCO